

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for January 2, 2024 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Espinoza and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by Virtual Meeting: Members of the public.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for December 19, 2023. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for January 2, 2024.

CLAIM No.		Monthly Total
December, 2023	30535, 30538-30554	\$ 494,772.14
January, 2024	30515-30534, 30536-30537	\$ <u>2,430.12</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 497,202.26
December Payroll		\$ <u>211,887.36</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 709,089.62

Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laurie Tschetter asked about her neighbor that has vehicles parked all over his lawn. She notified Council that larger Montana cities have received letters from NorthWestern Energy regarding smart meters. Mayor Purcell noted he will reach out to larger cities for more information.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the City staff for their hard work and dedication adding there are several projects planned for 2024 and 2025.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has job openings for Police Officers, Maintenance Worker I, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice, and a School Resource Officer (SRO).

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Hopes reported a Community Watch meeting is anticipated to be held in February.

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Lehr reported he and Hurff continue to work on the grant application for the South Park Project.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Sharpe reported the consensus of the committee is to redefine the word driveway as having one-inch (1") minus gravel with a minimum of three inches (3") depth, and a width no less than twelve feet (12'), and no longer than thirty feet (30').

Sharpe reported the committee discussed creating a code for road width for new Commercial and Residential developments. The consensus of the committee is to recommend a Seventy-foot (70') right-of-way with a back to back curb width of forty-four feet (44') to fifty feet (50') for Commercial and Sixty-foot (60') right-of-way with a back to back curb width of forty-two feet (42') for Commercial.

Sharpe reported the consensus of the committee was to amend the code for garage dimensions to 1,200 sq. foot and if an individual seeks a larger garage, they can come to Council and request a variance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received the December 2023 newsletter from the Montana Department of Transportation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell asked Council if they were interested in to making any changes to the Committees they currently serve on. Hopes voiced he would like to be on the Streets & Alleys Committee and Greer voiced he will move to the Law Enforcement Committee. Krebs motioned to approve the change in appointments. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reviewed the preliminary estimate, received from S Bar S, for a new sand shed in the amount of \$55,715. He added that he has reached out to Leroy Melville to design the footing and Jeff Schindler for pricing of a concrete slab. Hurff noted that he was told that if there is a fifteen percent variation in cost, they would have to rebid the project. Massine motioned to approve the estimate. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported the has submitted the 2023 Annual Financial Report to the State and provided a review of the report. Massine motioned to accept the report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported there were vehicles purchased for the streets and water departments; he has compiled a list of items to be auctioned; there was a curb stop that was repaired through the program; and the radiant heat has been installed in the shop.

Hurff reported he has been in contact with the contractor for Love's RV Park regarding backfill and curb repairs. Hurff noted that he and Connie Yerger have been in contact with the state regarding the approach to Love's RV Park. Hurff read a letter that was provided by Yerger that he received from Zach Kirkemo, with the Montana Department of Transportation.

Finance:

Police:

Police Chief George reviewed calls for service and noted there were not any major incidents over the holidays. He noted interviews will be scheduled for officer positions.

Legal:

Knudsen reported there was a meeting with the County to discuss the Farm to Market agreement. He noted it went back to the original proposed agreement and they walked away with the decision not to touch the current agreement; there were multiple suggestions of what a contract would look like when it expires in three years with reference to Railway.

Knudsen reported there is a meeting with the County this Thursday at 2:00 p.m. to discuss issues at the jail. He noted there has been incidents that are not acceptable.

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported she is waiting to hear if they will receive the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that was applied for a housing needs assessment; they were accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID Program placing them on a pathway to service development; and eight states, that include hundreds of local communities and two-dozen tribal governments, will be invited to the January board meeting for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) to join together to develop the route. Toyne noted she continues to work with the Montana Business Attraction and there is a meeting in mid-January with Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), representatives of Housing Urban Development (HUD), to refine their next steps. Toyne reported she has contacted the owners of the laundromat, on Center Avenue, and this location is their next project; there was not a timeline provided.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following:

December Anniversaries: Bryan Wilson, 2 years; Christmas Tree pick-up is scheduled from January 2nd to January 5th; Call for Bids for the City and the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department for SCBA's are due by 3:00 p.m. on January 9, 2024; City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2023 for Martin Luther King Day; and 2024 Business and Pet Licenses are due by February 1, 2024.

Mayor Purcell announced the following job openings: Full-time positions – Police Officers, School Resource Officer (SRO), Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice, and Maintenance Worker I. All positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for January 16, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Rock Massine, and Jeremy Krebs. Chris Sharpe was excused. Antonio Espinoza joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the public
There was not anyone present by Virtual Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for January 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Hopes motioned to approve the Resolutions or Ordinances committee meeting minutes as written for January 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for January 16, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
November, 2023	30595	\$ 87.84
December, 2023	30555-30556, 30558-30563, 30565-30570, 30572, 30574-30577, 30580-30590	\$ 82,152.99
January, 2024	30571, 30573, 30578-30579, 30591-30592, 30594, 30596-30598	<u>\$ 40,045.70</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 122,286.53

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laurie Tschetter asked about the status of her neighbor getting stuff cleaned up. Mayor Purcell reported he and Code Enforcement will look into it.

Jose Funke extended a “Thank You” to Police Chief Paul George and the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office for their fast response to an incident. Funke voiced he is hoping to get to the state to get the lights working on Center Avenue, to have the state start sanding Center Avenue, that speeding by the schools needs to be enforced more, and more parking tickets need to be issued.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported he, Lehr, and Hurff met with Stahly Engineering to finalize the Watson Drive water and sewer extension and noted the project will be going out to bid; there was a meeting with Robert Grant of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) regarding the ash contract; RMP is looking into providing the lighting on Sugar Factory Road, at no cost to the City, to improve the safety of the road; Governor Greg Gianforte appointed Paul Green as Director of the Department of Commerce; and the Police Department is looking into grants for a K-9.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has job openings for Police Officers, School Resource Officer (SRO), Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice, and General Laborer to Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker V. All positions are open until filled.

Mayor Purcell extended a "Thank You" to City employees that had to work this week in the cold weather and to the Landfill employees who came to work on Sunday to help out the power plant.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received the City-County Planning Board minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a recommendation from the City-County Planning Board to approve a Conditional use Application that was submitted by Shirley Beery to allow Class B manufactured homes on lots Zoned R2. Massine asked if it would be a trailer park. Stephen Spaulding, Big Sky Homes-Billings, reported they will be new HUD homes on concrete pier permanent foundations, there is no intent for it to be a trailer park and they will be separated by a two-car garage. Greer noted that he would hate to see a single wide next to \$300 to \$400 thousand-dollar homes, but he is not opposed to modular units. Krebs voiced he is the same way and he listed multiple properties that are R2 where someone would be able to put a trailer. Connelly, Code Enforcement, voiced Class A trailer homes are already allowed in R2 and Class B trailer homes are allowable by conditional use. Krebs noted he is good with stick built and manufactured homes on permanent foundations. Krebs voiced if they allow one, then you would have to allow them all. Knudsen noted Council has the authority to approve or deny applications on a case by case basis, individually. It was noted the purchase of the property is contingent on the approval of the conditional use. Spaulding provided a detailed description of the difference in a stick built and HUD home. Knudsen reviewed City Code 11-1-2-1 that describes the differences in Class A and Class B homes. Mayor Purcell asked if anyone from the eleven neighboring properties had come forward with a complaint against the application. The answer was no. (Espinoza joined the meeting). Espinoza voiced he agrees with Krebs, he doesn't want trailers to pop-up all-over town if they approve this one. Connelly noted that if Council doesn't want to see these, they should change the code. Espinoza motioned to deny the recommendation of the City-County Planning Board to approve the application. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Massine voting Nay.

Mayor Purcell reported the City noticed Call for Bids for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD). Joe Connelly, Fire Chief of the HVFD, recommended the approval of the bid submitted by Big Sky Fire in the amount of \$99,893.80, adding they came in under budget. Massine motioned to approve the bid from Big Sky Fire. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reviewed the list of auction items, equipment, to put out to bid. Hurff noted options are to hire a company to manage the bids or it can be done through the City. It was noted silent auctions have been done in the past. Massine motioned to approve the list of equipment. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported allowing fireworks for New Years has frequently been brought up. Council discussed recommendations of 11:00 p.m. on December 31st to 1:00 a.m. on January 1st, 12:00 p.m. on the 31st to 1:00 a.m. on the 1st; and 9:00 p.m. on the

31st to 1:00 a.m. on the 1st. Massine motioned to add the times and dates of 11:00 p.m. December 31st to 1:00 a.m. January 1st. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported a flood warning for an ice jam was issued and in effect until 2:15 p.m. Thursday, January 18th along the Big Horn River near Kingsley Road and Highway 47.

Finance:

Lehr provided a report of the Tax Incremental Finance District for November and December and noted Robert Grant with Rocky Mountain Power is aware of the back taxes due and they will be working on getting those paid.

Lehr reported he has been working with Tina Toyne, Economic Development, on the Request for Proposals for the Wayfinding grant.; House Bill 819 provides up to thirty-thousand dollars of funding for planning grants for housing; Toyne is working on a housing needs assessment for the City and County, but HB 819, if it is the consensus of Council for him to move forward looking into, would help with empty lots or the revitalization of current housing within the City. Krebs and Hopes both voiced that would be good.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He reported the four vehicles from Enterprise and also the K-9 vehicle from Dana Safety have arrived. He noted interviews were conducted for Police Officer and more interviews are expected.

Legal:

Knudsen reported there was a meeting with the County about the jail. He noted there has been improvements since the meeting.

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported she is waiting to hear about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that was applied for a housing needs assessment and she is waiting to hear more input on the Montana Business Attraction opportunities.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced 2024 Business and Pet Licenses are due by February 1, 2024.

Mayor Purcell announced the following job openings: Full Time Police Officers, School Resource Officer (SRO), General Laborer to Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker V and Part Time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. All positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for February 6, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Rock Massine, Chris Sharpe, Antonio Espinoza and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for January 16, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe abstained.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for February 6, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
December, 2023	30614	\$ 81.90
January, 2024	30599-30612, 30615-30624, 30647-30665	\$ 103,740.86
February, 2024	30625-30646	\$ <u>2,430.12</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 106,252.88
January Payroll		\$ 195,677.21
Total Submitted		\$ 301,930.09

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jose Funke expressed his concerns of the use of city vehicles and voiced the Police Chief is doing a wonderful job with the police officers.

Laurie Tschetter asked about her complaint. Mayor Purcell noted he met with Joe Connelly, Code Enforcement, and Knudsen about the complaint. Mayor Purcell read the conclusion of a letter that was written by Knudsen and handed the letter to Tschetter. Knudsen noted there is not enough evidence. Knudsen reviewed the definitions of Public Nuisance and Public View and noted it would need to affect several people. Tschetter voiced nobody should have to live next to a garbage pile. Knudsen noted there would have to be more people to complain. Tschetter voiced she is not asking for prosecution, just a letter to clear it up. Krebs suggested for Tschetter to write a letter and get signatures to help.

MAYOR:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has job openings for Police Officers, School Resource Officer (SRO), Animal Control, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice, and General Laborer to Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker V. All positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City of Hardin is submitting a grant application to the Montana Coal Board for a new garbage truck. He opened the discussion for Public Comment regarding the Environmental Checklist for the application. Funke noted he thinks the new truck needs to have something to secure the load when traveling to the dump. Hopes noted they have not been able to make it a hundred percent wind proof, no matter what they did. Lehr reported this equipment purchase that does not qualify for an environmental assessment; it gives the public the opportunity to voice concerns of public health and public safety and qualifies as a categorical exclusion. Lehr added there were not any written comments received by 5:00 p.m. today. There was no further comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported an estimate was received from Hardin Concrete & Construction LLC for the new sand shed in the amount of \$31,250. Massine motioned to approve the estimate. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the 10 Year Government Review Process that is mandated by the State of Montana. The city council determines the amount they want to levy to fund the local government review study commission and also determine how many members will be on the study commission. Lehr reviewed a sample budget. Sharpe asked where the remaining funds that were allocated to the board would go. Lehr noted it would go to the General Fund. Lehr recommended to allocate the amount of \$31,000 with possibly three commission members. Greer motioned to approve Lehr's recommendation to allocate \$31,000 and to have three members on the study commission. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Knudsen briefly reviewed the update to the Floodplain Regulations that are the most current from the State of Montana. Resolution NO. 2024-05: Update the Floodplain Regulations is on the agenda for Council vote.

Mayor Purcell noted that currently Class A manufactured homes are allowed in R2 Residential District and Class B manufactured homes are allowed by conditional use. He noted the consensus of Council at a previous meeting was to not allow Class B homes in R2 zoning, therefore removing Class B from R2 zones would eliminate applications being submitted and getting denied. Krebs motioned to remove Class B manufactured homes from R2 Zoning. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed rates from First Interstate Bank and also Little Horn State Bank to create a new CD. Lehr recommended to move forward with creating a CD at Little Horn State Bank in the amount of \$200,000 at 5.05% for six months. Greer motioned to approve the recommendation. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the main server at City Hall is going down. It will cost around \$15,000 to \$25,000 to replace the server. Espinoza motioned to provide permission to replace the server for the cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Cash Pledge Report. Greer motioned to approve the report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported he received a quote in the range of \$300,000 to \$400,000 to rebuild the landfill compactor; he reviewed quotes and three options for a tank mixer; and he reported there was one curb stop repair.

Finance:

Lehr provided a review of the Quarterly Financial Report for the Second Quarter Fiscal 2024. Lehr also provided a review of the First Interstate Bank Investment Account. Greer motioned to approve the Quarterly Report and the Investment Account report. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Lehr noted the engineers from Lodge Grass would like to change the procurement process for equipment by bidding the equipment as schedule one and the construction as schedule two and bid the two schedules together.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service; he reported the city received two grants for the K-9 Unit; and he is hopeful there will be two more interviews for the department. Chief Paul George voiced he wants to discuss looking into laws for alcohol sales. He suggested for there to be no off premises consumption of alcohol. Knudsen noted it all comes down to the department of revenue and what they will allow the City to regulate. Krebs voiced the City can regulate times to sell it. Mayor Purcell noted further options will be looked into.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported the County was awarded \$20,000 for the housing needs assessment; she worked with Mayor Purcell, Lehr, and Beartooth RC&D on a housing survey; she is working with Montana Business Attraction and also with a few local and potential business owners; she has been contacted by the Montana Film Office and Hardin is being considered by a couple of productions; she and Lehr have been working on the RFP for the Wayfinding Planning Grant and are waiting for proposals to come in; and there have been multiple meetings with the Crow Tribe and a company they are working with to turn the Western Motel into housing.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2357: Accept Determination that a Categorical Exclusion is Appropriate for a Garbage Truck. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2358: Authorizing the Submission of MT Department of Commerce Community Reinvestment Plan Act, Planning Grant Program Application. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-01: Allow Fireworks During New Years Eve. Espinoza motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-02: Change Definitions of Driveways and to Regulate Parking on Driveways and Boulevards. Greer motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-03: Change the Dimensions of a Private Garage Accessory Building. Sharpe motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-04: Establishing Uniform Street Widths for New Construction. Massine motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

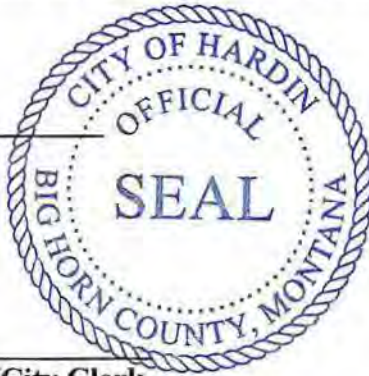
Ordinance NO. 2024-05: Update the Floodplain Regulations. Hopes motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the RFP for Wayfinding Plan is due Wednesday, February 14, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.; City offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2024 for Presidents' Day; and City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource Officer, Animal Control, and General Laborer or Maintenance Worker I-Maintenance Worker V. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 7:46 p.m.


Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for February 20, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Chris Sharpe and Antonio Espinoza. Jeremy Krebs was excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for February 6, 2024. Motion seconded by Sharpe. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for February 20, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
December, 2023	30694	\$ 9,793.60
January, 2024	30666-30679, 30681-30683, 30685-30687 30689-30693	\$ 84,445.04
February, 2024	30680, 30684, 30688	\$ 200,933.30
Total Submitted		\$ 295,171.94

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cory Kenney referenced the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-06 and asked if this will affect trailer houses in R2 district and wanted to clarify R3 zoning doesn't change. Mayor Purcell noted it will not affect where they are already established and it does not change R3 zoning.

Kenney referenced Ordinance NO. 2024-02, regarding the definition of driveway and parking, and asked what if a home needs repairs, is being modified or under construction, contractors need to get as close as they can, and doesn't want this to be an issue. Mayor Purcell noted it addresses long term parking. Kenney asked if this applies to primarily front yards. Mayor Purcell noted just front yards, sidewalks and boulevards. Knudsen voiced parking is not allowed on sidewalks or the apron.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported he is meeting with Paul Green, Director of the Department of Commerce, to discuss programs that are available to the City; he will be meeting with Robert Grant to discuss the ash contract and their plans for street lights on Sugar Factory Road; he will be attending the Montana League of Cities and Towns 2024 Executive Forum in Sidney, MT from February 28th to March 1st; and he will be representing Montana while attending the National Congressional Conference for the National League of Cities and Towns in mid-March.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has job openings for Police Officers, School Resource Officer (SRO), Animal Control, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice, and General Laborer to Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker V. All positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:
Streets & Alleys:
Parks & Playgrounds:
Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Sharpe read City Code 8-1-3. He noted the Superintendent of Public Works shall determine the volume of garbage produced, add or downsize for business, commercial, educational and other institutions, but it does not list residential. A committee meeting will be held to review the ordinance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Lehr reviewed the amended interlocal agreement to the Lodge Grass Interlocal Agreement. The two different schedules, Schedule 1 for equipment and Schedule 2 for the construction, will be bid at the same time. Knudsen noted the new contract will replace the previous agreement. Hopes motioned to approve the amended contract. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported he received a quote from Maguire in the amount of \$36,550.00 to install two new Gridbee model GS-9 submersible mixers into the interior of the two potable water tanks. Hurff noted this does not include the cost to hire an electrician. Kal Tucker, with Maguire, voiced the electrical will be brought to the exterior of the tank for an electrician. Massine motioned to move forward with the bid. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Lehr reported the application for the Montana Department of Commerce Community Reinvestment Plan Act, Planning Grant Program was submitted by the February 9th deadline and accepted; the Coal Board received the application submitted for a new garbage truck and the application will go before the Coal Board at the March 14th Meeting in Billings, MT; one proposal was submitted by Interstate Engineering for the Wayfinding Plan, the proposal will be reviewed by he, Mayor Purcell, and Tina Toyne; the new CD, previously approved by Council, was created at Little Horn State Bank and another CD that was due was rolled over into a six month CD at the rate of 5.05%; the first invoice was received from Morrison-Maierle for the Lodge Grass equipment procurement and the first reimbursement will be requested.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service; there have been interviews for officers, one candidate will be submitted to the Police Commission and another candidate is in the process. Chief George noted there has been one application received for the animal control position.

Legal:

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2359: Calling for an Election on the Question of Conducting a Local Government Review and Establishing a Study Commission to Do So. Sharpe motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-01: Second Reading - Allow Fireworks During New Years Eve. Hopes motioned to approve the ordinance. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-02: Second Reading - Change Definitions of Driveways and to Regulate Parking on Driveways and Boulevards. Hopes motioned to approve the ordinance. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-03: Second Reading - Change the Dimensions of a Private Garage Accessory Building. Hopes motioned to approve the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-04: Second Reading - Establishing Uniform Street Widths for New Construction. Greer motioned to approve the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-05: Second Reading - Update the Floodplain Regulations. Massine motioned to approve the ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

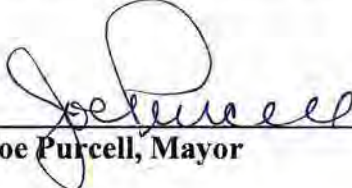
Ordinance NO. 2024-06: To Remove a Certain Type of Use for Areas Zoned as R2 General Residential District. Massine motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell announce the ordinances will go into effect thirty days from their second readings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Rennie Imasa, 1 year; Trevor Lutt, 12 years; and Drew Lehr, 4 years; the RFP contract for the Wayfinding Plan - to be decided at the March 54, 2024 Council meeting; and City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource Officer, Animal Control, and General Laborer or Maintenance Worker I-Maintenance Worker V. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for March 5, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Rock Massine, Chris Sharpe, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Chris Sharpe was present via Zoom.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and Officer Timothy Smells

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for February 20, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for March 5, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
January, 2024	30751	\$ 80.61
February, 2024	30715-30731, 30734-30739, 30752-30757, 30760-30762	\$ 45,696.56
March, 2024	30695-30714, 30732-30733, 30750, 30758-30759	\$ 457,323.92
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 503,101.09
February Payroll		\$ 197,381.94
Total Submitted		\$ 700,483.03

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jose Funke requested to go into an executive session after the Council meeting; he wants City Council to hear this. Mayor Purcell voiced he needs to address his concern to the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD); Council has no authority over the fire department. He would need to address the volunteer fire department board.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported he will be representing Montana while attending the National Congressional Conference for the National League of Cities and Towns from Sunday, March 10th to Wednesday, March 13th in Washington, D.C. and Chief Paul George, Jr. and the new K-9 are attending training; Officer Smells has stepped into the Chiefs place while he is out.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported he, Hurff, and Lehr will be reviewing the Personnel Policy Manual to update as needed.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received information from Hardin Public Schools about Portrait of a Graduate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported there will be a public hearing on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:20 p.m. for the House Bill 355 Allocation. Lehr reported the City of Hardin Allocation is \$281,820; the City is required to match twenty-five percent. The mixers were approved at the last meeting. The liner cost is just over two hundred and fifty-nine thousand dollars. The total with the mixers and liner will be just over two hundred and Ninety-five thousand dollars. The resolution for the HB 355 allocation to be used for the mixers and the lining for the concrete water tank will go before Council after the Public Hearing. Hopes motioned to approve the lining for the concrete water tank. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the City received one bid proposal, for the Wayfinding Grant RFP, from Interstate Engineering in the amount of \$39,930. Mayor Purcell noted He, Tina Toyne, and Lehr looked at adding two of the additional proposed options, the Mobile App & GIS Mapping and the City Branding, and discussed reducing the amount of the Public Involvement cost of \$14,370, in the original bid, as most of this can be done through the City. Greer motioned to approve the bid in the amount of up to \$40,000. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported the Montana Main Street Grant in the amount of \$33,333 and \$6,600 received from Big Horn County will be used toward the Wayfinding Project. Lehr reviewed the Master Plan for Wayfinding and Signage submitted by Interstate Engineering. Lehr pointed out the benefits of moving forward with the two additional proposed options previously mentioned. Mayor Purcell reported that as the project moves forward, it will come before council again for approval. Massine motioned to accept the proposal. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reviewed the amendment to the Ash Disposal Agreement with Rocky Mountain Power. The agreement would leave the monthly rate the same at \$20,000 and increase the amount from \$2.58 per ton to \$7.25 per ton. Massine motioned to approve the amendment. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reviewed the Agreement for Reimbursement with Rocky Mountain Power for operation of the Street Lights on Sugar Factory Road. The City will pay the bill and then bill Rocky Mountain Power for reimbursement. Espinoza motioned to approve the agreement. Greer seconded. Rob Bryson recommended for the City to request for the fuses to be installed at the base of the poles; this will allow them to be accessed easier when they need to be replaced. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Jose Funke, representing the owner of Alpine Meadows MHP, asked Council to table the request that was submitted for a reduction in the sewer portion of the bill. He noted they are working to figure out if the leak is underground. The letter of request was tabled.

Mayor Purcell reported adding residential to City Code 8-1-3 would give the superintendent the authority to determine garbage classifications for residential garbage. Espinoza provided a scenario and asked what if a resident refuses the additional can. Hurff voiced if there were complaints, a letter would be provided to the resident noting their pick-up days of the week, tips to break down boxes or recycle, etc. to see if those options help; the last resort would be to add another can.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported he has received two different quotes, around \$130,000, to replace the lining in the concrete tank. Dax Simek, of Stahly Engineering, recommended ½" thick lining; there was a state inspection at the Landfill last week; the city crew is moving bio-solid dirt from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the landfill; the city crew has been working in the parks as weather permits; and employees in the water and wastewater departments have been taking classes. Hurff reported he has been working on Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Division to become certified as a designated trainer for entry level Commercial Driver Training. Hurff reported he is looking into having the city employees do the dirt work for the container site at the landfill. Mayor Purcell asked about the status of the sand shed. Hurff reported the concrete work is on schedule and the installation will follow, weather permitting.

Finance:

Lehr reviewed the Landfill Closure/ Post Closure Estimates, for the landfill that were submitted by Barry Damschen Consulting, LLC.

Lehr reviewed the Continuing Disclosures and Event Notice for the Tax Industrial Development Revenue Bonds (TIFD).

Lehr reported he, Hurff and Mayor Purcell will attend the Coal Board meeting on March 14th in Billings, MT for the Coal Board Application that was submitted for a new garbage truck. He will be attending water and sewer training in Great Falls during the March 19th Council meeting, adding he will be present by Zoom.

Police:

Officer Timothy Smells reviewed calls for service and provided a brief update on the status of candidates for police officer positions. There was further discussion about the graphics for the new police vehicles, vehicle tow contact rotations, the Police Service Aide (PSA) and the police K-9 that is currently attending training with Police Chief Paul George.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Toyne reported she continues to work with the housing development of the Western Motel property and the empty lot next to it and she met with RC&D to see how the Brownfields grant can help with the project; she and Joe Connelly have been working with the Montana Business Attraction Team, she has been developing and distributing a house survey; and she attended the Visit SEMT meeting at the battlefield and voiced there needs to be a great amount of effort done as the City for the 150th anniversary of the Little Big Horn Battle that will take place in June 2026. Toyne reported she has been supporting Lehr as he has composed the application for the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act (HB819) and also the RFP for the Wayfinding Planning Grant; she had a meeting about the CDBG grant that was awarded for a county wide housing needs assessment; and she received information from the Department of Commerce about a grant opportunity for small businesses in historic downtowns. Toyne announced that she is resigning from her position, she will remain in her position for four more months, and it has not yet been decided by the Commissioners if they will continue with the position.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2360: Authorize Submission of a CDBG Grant Application to Fund a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2361: To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property. Espinoza motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2362: Authorize Submission of an Application for USDA Rural Development Grant to Assist with the Purchase of Garbage Truck. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-06: Second Reading - To Remove a Certain Type of Use for Areas Zoned as R2 General Residential District. Greer motioned to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

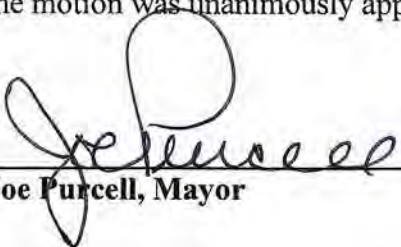
Mayor Purcell announced the ordinance will go into effect thirty days from the second reading.

Ordinance NO. 2024-07: Authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to Classify Solid Waste Use for Residential Properties. Massine motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced a Public Hearing for House Bill 355 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:20 p.m. at City Council Chambers; the Invitation to Bid for surplus property will be advertised and the bids must be submitted by Thursday, March 28, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.; and the City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource and Police Service Aide (PSA). Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for House Bill 355 Priority List Allocation was opened at 6:20 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:
Council Members: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr (present via Zoom), Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

Mayor Purcell reported the City of Hardin received an allocation through House Bill 355 “The State-Local Infrastructure partnership Act of 2023”. The City is requesting a portion of the allocation, in the amount of \$221,901, to be used for Lining the interior of the City’s concrete water storage tank and to purchase and install submersible mixers for the City’s two water storage tanks.

Mayor Purcell opened discussion for Public Comments. There was none.

Lehr noted a priority list is required to be developed to be included in the applications for the allocation. They are listed as follows: Priority Number 1 -The lining for the interior of the concrete water storage tank and Priority Number 2 - The purchase and installation of submersible mixers for the two water storage tanks.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for March 19, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr (present via Zoom), Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Sharpe made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for March 5, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for March 19, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
January, 2024	30776	\$ 2,786.40
February, 2024	30763-30772, 30774-30775, 30781-30793, 30795-30796	\$ 111,694.57
March, 2024	30773, 30777-30780, 30794, 30797-30799	\$ <u>51,980.53</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 166,461.50

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Katherine Fabrizius, resident, asked why the new squad cars were not on the road and noted she has seen the white K-9 vehicle on the road. Chief George reported the department is waiting on decals and for the radios to be installed in the vehicles.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell announced he, Lehr, and Hurff attended the Coal Board Meeting and the City was awarded \$210,000 for a new garbage truck. He attended the National Congressional Conference for the National League of Cities and Towns in Washington, D.C. where he was able to share some of the challenges we face in Montana and received contact information of department heads.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City currently has employment vacancies.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the City Crews have been out patching holes.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 30th and will be held in Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported Hurff received final estimates from Barry Damschen for the proposed canister site at the Landfill.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received the Notice of Publication of Categorical Exclusion for Phases 2 and 3 of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project from Montana Department of Environmental Equality.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Greer motioned to approve Amendment NO. 27 with Barry Damschen Consulting, LLC. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service and he reported a new Police Officer was hired that will also fill in as the School Resource Officer until that position is filled. Police Chief Paul George reported he attended K-9 training last week with the new K-9; her name is Thundra. He noted he plans to do a demonstration for Council.

Legal:

Mayor Purcell reported a meeting will be set up with the power plant to look at the Ash Contract that was previously approved by Council.

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

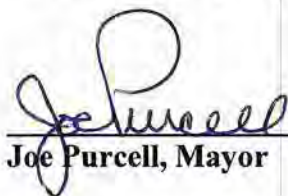
Resolution NO. 2363: Recommending a Funding Priority List for State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act to the Montana Department of Commerce – House Bill 355 Allocation. Krebs motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-07: Second Reading - Authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to Classify Solid Waste Use for Residential Properties. Hopes motioned to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Merle Johns, 7 years; Ross Miller, 5 years; Michael Stimpson 26 years; and Dave Weer, 1 year. The Invitation to Bid 2024 bids must be submitted by Thursday, March 28, 2024 by 3:00 p.m. at which time all bids will be opened; Alley Clean-Up is scheduled for the Week of April 1st, Weed Mowing Bids are due by 2:00 p.m. March 28, 2024, at which time bids will be opened; Sump Pump reminder has been noticed; and Letters of Interest to serve on the Police Commission will be advertised soon and will be due by April 18, 2024. The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource and Police Service Aide (PSA). Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for House Bill 355 Priority List Allocation was opened at 6:26 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:
Council Members: Steven Hopes, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew, Lehr Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the public

Mayor Purcell reported the City of Hardin received an allocation through House Bill 355 “The State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act of 2023”. The priority list includes - Number 1 - The lining for the interior of the concrete water storage tank and Priority Number 2 - The purchase and installation of submersible mixers for the two water storage tanks. The City is adding Priority Number 3 - Landfill Transfer Site, as a third piece to the application. Massine asked how much would the landfill receive. Mayor Purcell reported \$59,919 would go to the landfill for the canister site. The amount of \$221,901 will be allocated to Priority 1 and 2 to be used for Lining the interior of the City’s concrete water storage tank and to purchase and install submersible mixers for the City’s two water storage tanks.

Mayor Purcell opened discussion for Public Comments. There was none.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for April 2, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Clayton Greer was excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Sharpe made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for March 19, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Hopes made the motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written for March 19, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharpe made a motion to approve the claims for April 2, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
February, 2024	30800	\$ 6,735.71
March, 2024	30801, 30827-30828, 30830-30856	\$ 132,587.58
April, 2024	30802-30826, 30829	\$ 15,272.38
Total Submitted		\$ 154,595.67

Hopes seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jose Funke, resident, voiced safety is the biggest issue he is having in his trailer court. He noted he needs more patrols with the spot lights again. Mayor Purcell advised Funke to speak with the Police Chief on this matter.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported there was one bid submitted for the Weed Mowing Bids; the Invitation to Bid for surplus items is complete and all items were sold; and the police vehicles that were totaled by the insurance company for hail damage have been towed.

Mayor Purcell reported he did receive a reply from the power plant regarding the Ash Contract. Council approved \$7.25 per ton and their thoughts are \$5.75 per ton. He will meet with them and get a formal counter proposal to bring to Council.

Mayor Purcell noted that he received a notice from Teamsters Union Local 190 that the majority of the Hardin Police Department has expressed interest in joining; the City is waiting for an updated lease agreement from the railroad for the Depot building and once that is complete the Chamber will move forward with using grant money for remodeling and refurbishing the building; and a Pilot Community Tourism Grant is available through the Department of Commerce that focuses on economic development, job creation, and tourism. He noted that if the application is completed by the end of the month, it will be brought to Council at the following meeting.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City currently has employment vacancies.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the culvert has been replaced on Sawyer's Loop.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the Easter Egg Hunt was held in Heimat Park and that it went well.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City has published the 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Krebs motioned to approve the City Attorney Contract with Knudsen & Knudsen, PLLC. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported a letter of request was submitted by the owner of Alpine Meadows MHP, LLC asking for a reduction in a portion of the sewer bill from the February and March billing. They had a water leak and couldn't determine the water was going down the sewer, it was coming up in the park. Lehr reported the amount over and above the average of the last calendar year is \$1,195.24. Funke, manager of the park, noted there is a sewer that use to be for another trailer that someone had put a rock in and that there is no sewer cap on it. Massine asked if any water went into it. Funke noted that it was by it but never exceeded into it. There was further discussion of the total amount of the bills for both months and the request submitted. Espinoza motioned to forgive half of the \$1,195.24 in the amount of in the amount of \$597.62. Hopes seconded. Mayor Purcell reported the motion has been seconded to reduce the sewer portion of the

bill for Alpine Meadows by half of the amount that was calculated by the city in the amount of \$597.62. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported Big Sky Lawn Care & Plowing LLC was the one proposal that was received for the Weed Mowing Bids. Hopes motioned to approve the proposal. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service and reported Dana Safety has received the striping for the police vehicles. They will be sent to be striped and have the radios installed. Krebs asked if he has looked into radars for speed. Chief George noted he is looking into a grant and he has reached out for used radars. Massine asked if the street people have been asked to move from Wilson Park, he sees them at 5:00 a.m. Chief George noted he will put out a message to the Officers and asked if you see it to call it in.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported the state extended the deadline for the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act (HB819) and she completed the application and turned it in for the county. She added this would be additional funding for the Housing Needs Assessment. She is currently waiting to hear if they will be awarded the additional money to go with the CDBG award of \$20,000; she is working with Jason Adams of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), Drew Lehr, and Myrna Lastusky of Beartooth RC&D, in getting the housing needs assessment ready; meetings continue with the Montana Business Attraction Team; she, Mayor Purcell, and Lehr met with Brent Moore from Interstate Engineering on the Wayfinding Planning Grant to establish the next steps for the re-branding of Hardin and for the wayfinding plan; she met with Kathleen Williams and Tash Wisemiller from USDA; and she met with Tori Kolkhorst, a field representative for the office of Senator Steve Daines and discussed projects she is currently working on.

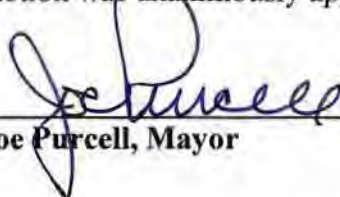
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2364: Recommending a Funding Priority List for State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act to the Montana Department of Commerce – House Bill 355 Allocation. Sharpe motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell reported Letters of Interest to serve on the Police Commission are due by April 18, 2024. The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource, Police Service Aide (PSA), and two Seasonal Employees. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Hopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for April 16, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, and Antonio Espinoza. Jeremy Krebs was absent.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for April 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Sharpe made the motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written for April 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for April 16, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
March, 2024	30857-30868, 30871, 30878, 30887	\$ 35,383.99
April, 2024	30869-30870, 30872-30877 30879-30886, 30888	\$ <u>23,207.27</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 58,591.26
March Payroll		\$ 292,351.37
Total Submitted		\$ 350,942.63

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kerstin Cauckwell, with the Hardin Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), provided information on Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization out of New England. Cauckwell provided history of the background of how the program began and noted the local American Legion is on board with starting the program in Hardin. Wreaths are placed on Veterans gravesites on the same day all across the U.S., December 14th. She added people in the community sponsor the wreaths and they are looking for volunteers to help place the wreaths on that day. More information will be provided in the future.

Cory Kenney, resident, recommended for the City to purchase or rent an 18" milling machine to repair potholes and provided an overview of how the machine could benefit the City.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported he received confirmation from Teamster Union Local 190 the Hardin Police Department requested to join; meetings will be set up for discussion.

Mayor Purcell noted the Pilot Grant Program, through the Department of Commerce, focuses on economic development, job creation, and tourism. A Steering Committee was developed and they have met to initiate planning and preparation for the application and grant. Mayor Purcell reviewed the five-year phase timeline for the grant and the amount of funds that would be disbursed each year once the prior year qualifications have been met. He added the committee consists of members from the City of Hardin, Big Horn County, Fort Smith, local business owners, the

Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m. to hear ideas and input from the community.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the Police Chief developed a new recruitment flyer for the Police Department; the Personnel Policy Manual will be reviewed for updates; and he reviewed the communication from Stahly outlining the timelines for the water, sewer, and road improvement projects.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the contract for cybersecurity at the water treatment plant is on the agenda, they have been cleaning the basins, and the City went out to bid on cleaning sewer lines.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell announced the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department appointed Andrew Wagner as Fire Chief.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported City Council approved an Ash Disposal Agreement with the Power Plant to charge the rate of \$20,000 per month and \$7.25 per ton. He did receive a response from the plant and their negotiation is to continue to pay the \$20,000 per month and \$5.75 per ton. It was noted they are currently paying \$2.58 per ton. Knudsen reported the last agreement was 2008. Mayor Purcell noted the new rate was calculated using landfill rate increases since 2008. Massine asked Lehr how much below \$7.25 per ton can the City go. Lehr voiced his recommendation is to maintain the \$7.25 per ton. Knudsen pointed out the contract will be negotiated every two years. Sharpe recommended to raise the fixed rate to \$20,000 and \$6.25 per ton and asked if that would be easier. Cory Kenney voiced the letter to them needs to address it is renegotiated every two years and that they need to get prepared to get up to where it belongs to be fair to everyone else. Lehr will look into the recommendation made by Sharpe. There was no action. Mayor Purcell noted the further discussion about the ash contract will be brought before Council at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received two Request for Proposals for the City of Hardin Sanitary Sewer Cleaning. He noted Dax Simek, of Stahly Engineering, submitted a letter recommending the proposal from Tru Pipe, Inc, in the amount of \$7,665. Massine motioned to approve the recommendation in the amount of \$7,665. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Cyndy Maxwell, representative of Joint Powers Trust, provided a review of changes for the City health policy. She noted an onsite training will be scheduled for employees to review the benefits they have available. Mayor Purcell reported JPT submitted a proposal to renew the contract for health insurance. Sharpe motioned to approve the renewal. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department submitted a letter requesting \$10,000 to support the department and the work they do. Massine motioned to approve the donation to City HVFD. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported a proposal was submitted by In Control, Inc. to provide licensing and back up protection for the Water Treatment Plant. Massine motioned to accept the proposal in the amount of \$7,021. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell provided a review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Steering Committee for the Pilot Community Tourism Grant. He noted there are eight members in the committee. The agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the committee, the City, of meetings and coordination of the grant. Greer motioned to accept the MOU. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Letter of Credit from Little Horn State Bank. Hopes motioned to accept the Letter of Credit. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reviewed maintenance that is being done at the water and wastewater treatment plants; the state inspection at the landfill went well; the Peterbilt garbage truck is back from repairs and is back in service; the tree pile will be burned at the landfill; maintenance is being done on sprinkler systems and fertilizer is being spread at the parks; the park restrooms are scheduled to be opened on Mother's Day, May 12th; t-ball will be held in Heimat park on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of May; currently there is one applicant for summer help; more 300 gallon garbage cans were picked up from Billings; water and wastewater employees have completed their CEC's; and Tim Quanbeck is providing CPR and First Aid Classes for City employees this week.

Finance:

Lehr reported notices for Unclaimed Property have been mailed and they have until May 13th to respond.

Lehr reported the City received \$1,050 from the video gambling taxes and \$3,908 from the Marijuana Tax for the 1st Quarter of FY 2024; the HB 355 application for the landfill container site was accepted, not yet awarded; the other two HB 355 grants are also waiting for approval; the City received the grant contract for the Coal Board Grant that was awarded for the garbage truck and he is waiting to hear on the Rural Development Grant application for the garbage truck in the amount of \$50,000; the City has received the annual Fire Department Relief Association and Police Training/Pension Fund funding in the amount of \$8,019 each; and he received the updated rates for Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) Insurance policy and will be presented at the next meeting.

Lehr reported he attended a Montana Main Street Program meeting and he will continue to attend monthly meetings and provide quarterly reports to them. He added that the meeting provided good resources for future grants.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He reported Police K-9 Thundra is doing good and a meet and greet demonstration will be held before the Council meeting on the 7th of May. He provided a review of how she has been deployed with the department.

The police vehicles have been striped and the radios installed; he noted the striping is not flashy, but is one hundred percent identifiable; Officer Timothy Smells attended the field sobriety training at the academy; and there were two interviews for Police Officers and a conditional offer was extended to one of the applicants. Chief Paul George reported he created a new recruitment flyer for the Police Officer, School Resource Officer (SRO), and Police Service Aide positions.

Police Chief Paul George reported the Law Enforcement Memorial Parade will be held on May 15th in Hardin. The details will be announced on Facebook and in the Original Briefs.

Legal:

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

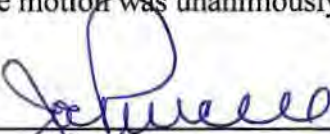
Resolution NO. 2365: Authorize Submission of Application for the Montana Department of Commerce pilot Community Tourism Grant Program. Sharpe motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announce the following employee anniversaries and extended a Thank You to them for their years of service: Richard Jefferson, 3 years; Timothy Smells, 2 years; and Kristi Wedel, 18 years. He reported Letters of Interest to serve on the Police Commission are due by April 18, 2024; Notice to Destroy Weeds and Sump Pump reminders have been noticed; and a Public Hearing for the PILOT Community Tourism Program Grant is scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and the Special Council Meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource, Police Service Aide (PSA), and two Seasonal Employees. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA

POLICE K-9 DEMONSTRATION - POLICE CHIEF PAUL GEORGE, JR. WITH K-9 THUNDRA.

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reported the weather has not permitted to have an outside demonstration, it will be held inside.

Police Chief George introduced City of Hardin Police Department K-9 Thundra. She is a Dutch Shephard Malinois mix trained in narcotics detection, tracking – trailing, and apprehension. She can find residual odors of narcotics and is trained on seven different drugs. Chief Paul George explained the intense training she has gone through and continues to receive on a daily basis. K-9 Thundra went to each individual in the room and met them with a warm greeting.

Sharpe asked if she is a source for Big Horn County too if they need tracking. Police Chief George reported the County has used her a few times. Police Chief George provided an example of officers needing to enter a building, he voiced her purpose is to detain and hold so the officers can get in strategically and safely. As the Chief was providing information on the value Thundra is to law enforcement, Officer Austin Gearhart placed training paper, Whatman Filter Paper, with fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine in different locations inside the room. She successfully found each paper and was rewarded every time with her favorite toy, her ball. The Chief explained she receives the ball as praise.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for May 7, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen (by virtual meeting), and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for April 16, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for May 7, 2024.

CLAIM No.		Monthly Total
March, 2024	30912-30914, 30955-30956	\$ 79,154.32
April, 2024	30890-30911, 30935-30940, 30943-30954, 30957-30958, 30960, 30962, 30964-30968 30970-30971	\$ 75,078.24
May, 2024	30915-30934, 30941-30942, 30959, 30961	\$ 8,249.15
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 162,481.71
April Payroll		\$ 196,787.94
Total Submitted		\$ 359,269.65

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jose Funke, resident, expressed his concerns about the police “walkie talkies”. He asked Hurff to let Jim Kuntz, with City Water Distribution, know that he appreciates him.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell extended a “Thank You” to Lehr, Hurff, and the Steering Committee for putting the Pilot Grant application together. The application for the \$2.75 million grant has been submitted.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported multiple interviews have been done for the Seasonal and School Resource Officer positions.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the contract for cybersecurity at the water treatment plant is on the agenda, they have been cleaning the basins, and the City went out to bid on cleaning sewer lines.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the City Crew was out patching holes.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the park restrooms will be opened Mothers’ Day weekend.

Lehr reported the Land Water and Conservation Fund Assistance application for the South Park Updates has been submitted and Resolution NO. 2366 provides an update to the total projected cost.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer requested a Finance Committee meeting to be scheduled on May 21st, prior to the Council Meeting, to discuss recommendations made by the auditor.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Purcell reported a Public Hearing and Special Council Meeting was held on Monday, April 29, 2024 about the PILOT Community Tourism Grant Program Guidelines, Application, and Grant Administration.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported a newsletter was received from the Montana Department of Transportation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lehr reviewed an updated proposal for the Ash Disposal Agreement with the Power Plant. At the last meeting, it was reported the response from the plant was to continue to pay the \$20,000 per month and \$5.75 per ton. After further discussion and recommendation from Lehr, Sharpe motioned to update the Ash Disposal Contract with the proposal of the fixed amount of \$25,000 month and \$5.20 per ton. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

David R. Blaine reported he is hosting a youth basketball camp this weekend in Crow Agency. He voiced he is looking for donations for food, drinks, and snacks. Blaine added this is one of many camps to be held in Big Horn County, the kids are from every school within the county, they are from third grade to twelfth grade, a majority of the kids are from Hardin, and he has also received support from the Tribe and some districts from Crow. Mayor Purcell asked Blaine about the minimum donation amount he was

seeking. Blaine noted about \$500 for Subway boxes, adding that even if the City purchased the food and he can pick it up. He noted there will be a movie in the park following the event; partnering with the YES Coalition. Espinoza motioned to approve the donation of \$250 to supply food and refreshments for the camp. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell recommended the re-appointment of Kevin Cannon to the Police Commission for a three-year term. Krebs motioned to approve appointment. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported In Control, Inc. submitted a proposal for replacement parts for the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$7,844. Massine motioned to approve the proposal. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported Wharton Asphalt, LLC submitted a proposal in the amount of \$33,732 to repair the approach at Kokomo Road. Hurff voiced the approach needs to be repaired to avoid further damage. Krebs noted Love's is repairing asphalt on their parking lot; why not fix the approach. Greer noted that access will be used one hundred percent by their campers. After further discussion, Sharpe motioned to approve the contract and have Knudsen send a letter to Love's to see if the City can get compensation. Massine seconded. On a voice vote there was a tie vote with Massine, Sharpe, and Greer voting Yea and with Hopes, Espinoza, and Krebs voting Nay. The Mayor broke the tie vote by voting Yea. (4/3) The motion passed.

Lehr reviewed the Cash Pledge Report. Krebs motioned to approve the report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the culvert has been replaced at Sawyer's Loop; the summer help positions for parks and streets have been filled; and he will be putting pricing together for park equipment for Heimat Park. Krebs asked if the dura patcher, used to fill pot holes, has been out. Hurff reported it has not; it is good for shallow holes, but not potholes; he is looking to cut the pot holes out and repair them properly and it has to be the right temperature. Krebs noted he has looked at a paver and he will send the information to Hurff.

Finance:

Lehr reviewed the Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report. Greer motioned to approve the report. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported the City received the HB 355 grant for the lining and tank mixers for the water tank, but the landfill container site did not meet compliance and was not granted. Sharpe noted the container is an upgrade to the existing. Lehr noted the City has thirty days to appeal it.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He provided a brief report on a call the department received a few weeks ago and expressed appreciation to the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office and the BIA for their assistance. Chief Paul George reported Dana Safety has completed the Dodge Durango's and he and another Officer will be attending a drug investigations course, put on by the Federal Government, on June 2nd. He added the goal it for all the officers to receive the training.

Chief Paul George reported offers for a Police Officer position and the School Resource Officer (SRO) position were extended and accepted and he and the new SRO will be attending the training in Child Forensic Interviews in August; Officer Timothy Smells has received the training and the goal is for every officer to have it. He voiced the need to send officers to trainings adding the community deserves good trained officers. He noted he will be looking into quotes for lidar radars and have them available for budget meetings.

Police Chief Paul George reported the Law Enforcement Memorial Parade will be held on May 15th in Hardin and he provided details of the parade route.

Massine asked if there were problems with the radios. Police Chief George reported he is monitoring them. He added the computer in the dispatch center couldn't communicate with them and 911iNet had the communication restored quickly.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported the Request for Proposals for the Big Horn County Housing Needs Assessment has been published; she worked with Lehr on the Pilot Tourism Grant Application; she attended the One Health Hardin Acreage public meeting; she attended a board meeting for Visit SEMT in Billings, a national program that collaborates with different communities to promote the area; she and Lehr went on a site visit with Brent Moore from Interstate Engineering and Zach Kirkemo from the Department of Transportation and they shared their hopes and expectations for the Wayfinding Planning; she attended a conference in Red Lodge where she took a grant writing class and received updates on different programs; she had a meeting with Jaimie Charon from Montana Business Attraction where they discussed several companies considering Hardin, she will be working with Joe Connelly on the project; and she asked Beartooth RC&D for assistance with a few local businesses that want to expand.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2356: Approving a Petition to Annex Certain Lands to the City of Hardin. Krebs motioned to approve the petition to annex the land (Maverik, Inc. Property). Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

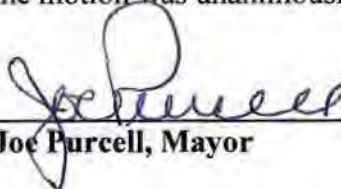
Resolution NO. 2366: Authorizing Application for Land & Water Conservation Fund Assistance. The resolution is to update the total estimated dollar amount for the South Park Upgrades. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell reported National Police Week is the week of May 13th, the Special Olympics Torch Run is scheduled for May 13, 2024; the Law Enforcement Memorial Parade is scheduled for May 15, 2024; and the Notice to Destroy Weeds and Sump Pump reminders have been noticed.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource, Police Service Aide (PSA), and two Seasonal Employees. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Hopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for May 21, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for May 7, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for May 21, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
March, 2024	30992	\$ 6,605.12
April, 2024	30973-30974, 30979-30989, 30993, 30996,30998	\$ 147,535.13
May, 2024	30972, 30975-30978, 30990, 30994-30995 30997, 30999	\$ 111,911.08
Total Submitted		\$ 274,051.33

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David R. Blaine announced he is planning to hold a car show fundraiser for the youth in August. He is working on the location. He has visited with the Sheriff and Police Chief about support to have a parade, with motorcycles and cars through Center Avenue to the Fairgrounds. He will provide updates. Blaine extended a “Thank You” to Council for the donation for the basketball camp.

Cory Kenney voiced he wished the City would get a milling machine to put on a skid steer to fill pot holes; Jose Funke expressed his concerns of safety at the schools; and Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz asked about a donation that was made to the City for the K-9.

MAYOR:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the shared Economic Development position with Big Horn County and the City of Hardin ends July 5th; the County and City will advertise for their own Economic Development positions. The position for the City of Hardin has been posted.

Mayor Purcell reported there are twenty applicants for the PILOT grant with seven grants available; the City-County Planning Board has an opening for the Mayor appointment and he will have a recommendation for Council at the next meeting; and meetings will be set up for Union negotiations for the police department.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the bid opening was held for the 1st Street and other projects; they will be presented at the next meeting for discussion.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the City Crew has been out patching holes; doing what they can.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the park restrooms are open and there is a quote for playground equipment, on the agenda, to replace damaged equipment in Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported the Finance Committee discussed recommendations made by the auditor regarding the Public Safety Fund, the Fire Department Relief Association (FDRA) and Two Rivers Authority (TRA). The consensus was to move forward with the recommendation for the Public Safety Fund and leave the FDRA and TRA alone.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported a newsletter was received from the Montana Department of Transportation providing an update on the Hardin Rest Area and the City received the City-County Planning Board minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Denise Rios, Big Horn County Treasurer, reported the County does tax liens in October of each year. She explained the process and how the County decides which properties to take and what to list at tax sale. She voiced she will start to reach out to the City in January of next year; she has to go before the County Commissioners on May 28th with the properties. She reviewed the process and reported there are currently four properties that have some fees and if there are fees then the County is responsible for them. She is proposing for the City and County to work together to figure out a good solution to help the City and County to put these properties back on the tax rolls. Mayor Purcell asked about the amount of the fees on the properties. Rios noted she can provide the information. Rios noted that if this doesn't work this year, it is something that can be looked at moving forward.

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a letter of recommendation from the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) to approve a Conditional Use Application submitted by the Crow Tribe for a Multi-Family Residential in C-3 Zone. Todd Wilson, on behalf of the Crow Tribe, reported they are proposing to revitalize the old motel located at 830 3rd Street West. He reported the property was used in the past for covid quarantine. They are applying for a \$2.5 million grant through the state; the location would be managed by the Apsaalooke Housing Authority; and they would provide services for substance abuse disorder, mental health, help with job applications, etc. He reported safety concerns came up during the CCPB meeting. He noted the property would be fenced off and there would be security cameras as well, it will not be a shelter or a treatment center, it will be open to everyone not just tribal members. He added the idea is to ease into working members of society in the community and then find a place of their own. They will have help in the process, there is no timeline of how long they will be a tenant. Wilson voiced the CCPB reviewed it, worked through it and approved it.

Massine asked about the people staying in it at this point. Wilson noted it is at the discretion of the chairman. Krebs voiced the rooms are small and questioned with twenty-three units how would a kitchen be put in them. Wilson noted the design makes it possible for one person and the suites will be by the alley. Wilson reported the concept of the studios encompass the design of 2,000 affordable housing units across the United States. Greer asked what the plans were to upgrade the size of the water lines. Wilson

voiced part of the grant application is to get infrastructure up to code. There was some discussion of parking and the possibility of another building addition. Krebs noted the site plan looks great, but as a plumber he has done work in the units; they are very small. Wilson voiced that for someone that is homeless it would not be an issue, they have a place to sleep, etc. Mayor Purcell asked about the maximum amount of time someone can stay there. Wilson noted there is no maximum; it is all determined by social determinates. There will be lease agreements in place from about six months to a year and then they will be on a monthly basis. He added that violations of the agreement are grounds for eviction.

Tressie White, Program Director with Montana Healthcare Foundation, voiced HUD vouchers would help to pay for rent for those who qualify and the hope is they are moving on from the units. Knudsen asked if there will be preference to tribal members or a percentage to tribal members in the units; not to potentially violate Federal Housing Laws. Wilson noted there are rules that come into play and were part of the planning process. Police Chief Paul George noted he heard "supportive housing" and asked where the funds would come from to pay for it. Wilson noted it will be paid for by tribal resources. There will be counseling on site; there are resources from different departments coming together to address the needs. Chief Paul George asked what steps are in place in the agreement if they are not using the services. White noted they can't break laws and force a tenant to seek services. White voiced it is hard for people to start services and get help until they are housed, then they can start thinking about getting support. She added she is the expert consultant working on the project and will continue to be with them. Kenney asked what other communities are in the state. White noted they are in Missoula, Great Falls, Ronan, etc. adding Helena just purchased a hotel to turn into a permanent supportive model. Mayor Purcell noted there is a great need for this type of service; but what clientele will it bring in to the location; the risk factors are the biggest concerns.

Loretta Barnes, resident, noted families have trouble with transport, getting to appointments and school and they will benefit from this. She asked if there would be a daycare involved for those living on the campus. Wilson noted transportation is part of the services that will be provided and the Crow Tribe is building a daycare. Barnes pointed out that mothers want to be close to their children. Wilson voiced that if the need is there it will be addressed. Funke asked about background checks for tenants. White pointed out that being a convicted felon does not disqualify someone. Wilson noted there is a vetting process. Espinoza asked who makes the determination of applicants. Wilson noted the Housing Authority Board. He added Federal and State Funds will be used and the housing laws will help guide the criteria of how folks are chosen.

Rios was asked about if the tax base would increase. Rios noted that when the tribe receives HUD approval they can ask for tax subsidies. White voiced she suspects the tribe will take advantage of any lowering of taxes not operating in profit. Rios noted the tax base does not go up. Lehr asked if this causes the city more police presence and they don't pay taxes, how does that benefit the tax payers. Wilson noted in the models they have seen, it has helped with that population. White voiced they can provide the city with data from these. Hopes recommended to table until they receive the information they can provide. Mayor Purcell noted the recommendation is to approve the conditional use application. Hopes noted he would like to see more paperwork so he can make an informed judgement. Knudsen noted to gather more information is out of the scope of the conditional use permit. To table generally is fine, but out of the scope of the application is problematic. White noted there was a public hearing and the recommendation was made. Kenney voiced to work together to try to create housing for people that need it. Funke voiced to approve it. Mark Kuntz noted this isn't the first time something like this has been done; it has been done statewide and in other states. Massine asked if it is approved, will they get the grant money. Wilson noted a stipulation of the grant is approval of the conditional use. He added the grant will not cover the entire project. Hopes motioned to table the conditional use application. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion failed (2/4) with Hopes and Krebs voting Yea and Greer, Espinoza, Massine and Sharpe voting Nay. Espinoza motioned to approve the recommendation to approve the multi-family residential in Zone C3. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed (4/2) with Espinoza, Sharpe, Greer, and Massine voting Yea and Krebs and Hopes voting Nay.

Ginnie Ladwig, with the Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce, submitted a letter of requests for Little Big Horn Days that is scheduled from June 21st to June 23rd. The requests include road closure of the 200 Block of Center Avenue from 6:30 a.m. June 21st until 12:00 p.m. June 23rd, Police assistance with scheduled events, extra trash cans, portable restrooms (including handicap accessible), and a handwash station. Greer motioned to approve the requests. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported a letter was submitted by Christy Osborne, with Cold River Properties, LLC about a property they purchased. He reported the home was empty for a long time, the curb stop was broke so the water could not be turned off, and there was no usage, but a bill calculated because it could not be turned off at the curb stop. Osborne voiced they purchased the home and found out about the bills after the purchase. It was reported the amount of the water/sewer bill is \$720.40 Greer motioned to waive the charges. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported he received a quote from Playground Boss in the amount of \$29,886 to replace damaged playground equipment in Heimat Park. Greer motioned to approve the purchase. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported there was property that had been donated to the City and a proposal had previously been submitted to Council from Safetech,,Inc. for asbestos abatement that provided four cost options. At that time, Beartooth RC&D had noted there was a program that could maybe help with the cost, but upon research the program is only geared toward commercial property. Krebs motioned to approve Option #4 in the amount of \$18,700 - Abatement of asbestos materials so the structure can be burned for fire training. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the recommendation is to move the Public Safety Fund to their own title instead of going through the General Fund. Greer motioned to approve the recommendation of the auditor to move the Public Safety Fund to its' own entity and to not make any changes with the Fire Department Relief Association (FDRA) or Two Rivers Authority (TRA). Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported the deadline for Unclaimed Property has passed. He requested approval to send the list to the State of Montana, but to still be able process any requests that are made before forwarding them at the end of June. Greer motioned to approve the requests. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Lehr reported he is looking to schedule Budget Meetings for Tuesday, June 25th or Wednesday, June 26th and Tuesday July 9th, Wednesday, July 10th, and Thursday, July 11th.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He introduced Officer Ishmael Perin and provided a background of his experience. Chief Paul George extended a "Thank You" to Hurff, Espinoza, and City and County staff for providing assistance with the Law Enforcement Parade and Ceremony. Massine voiced he, Chief Paul George, did a wonderful job.

Legal:

Knudsen reported he was asked to look into vagrancy and loitering laws and noted that an important case is going up to the Supreme Court. He will provide an update following the ruling.

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

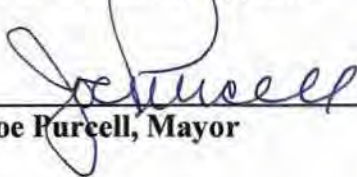
Resolution NO. 2367: Appointing a Resident to the Hardin Police Commission. Krebs motioned to approve the appointment. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced Jeremy Beckman has been with the City for twenty-nine years; City of Hardin offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 in Observance of Memorial Day; and the City will advertise for Letters of Interest for a Community Representative to serve on the Impact Fee Committee.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource, Police Service Aide (PSA), and Economic Development Director. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for June 4, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for May 21, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer made the motion to approve the Finance Committee minutes as written for May 21, 2024. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for June 4, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
April, 2024	31026-31027, 31052	\$ 320.27
May, 2024	31020-31021, 31023-31025, 31028-31034, 31037-31048, 31053-31070	95,442.69
June, 2024	31000-31019, 31035-31036, 31049-31051	<u>79,836.37</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 175,599.33
May Payroll		<u>202,634.67</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 378,234.00

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tammy Devers, with Hamster Boy and Tiger Lilly Rescue, voiced the lack of animal control is a concern to her and everyone in the community. She added dollars are already allocated that haven't been spent on wages for months and can be used. Devers expressed if people were held accountable it would make them accountable. She voiced she is asking the City and Law Enforcement to do their part; local rescues can be an asset; the strays are not going away and those of us who choose to be their voices.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) has accepted the updated proposal for the Ash Disposal Agreement that was approved by Council at the May 7th meeting. RMP has agreed to \$25,000 per month and \$5.20 per ton.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell noted the City is currently working on a date to meet with the union to work on the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the City Police Department.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported Stahly Engineering has a recommendation on the agenda for the sewer, water, and road project bids.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the weather has been good; the City Crew has been out patching pot holes.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the new playground equipment for Heimat Park will be in tomorrow and the parks department has been repairing broken sprinkler pipes from the winter freeze.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported a letter was received from the Montana Department of Transportation regarding the 2024-2028 Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt Smith, Senior Engineer with Stahly Engineering, reported Stahly bid the projects for the 1st Street Reconstruction & Water Main Replacement, Gable Boulevard Water Extension, and 6th Street West Sanitary Sewer Manhole Replacement and the bids came in good. He reviewed the Budget Sheet and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) matrix for funding available. He reported there is money still available from HB355 and from Gas Tax dollars. He noted the ARPA funding will be used first then the HB355 funds to leave as much money in the Gas Tax funds as possible. Smith recommended the Bid to be awarded to Askin Construction in the amount of \$979,750. He reported 7F Services, LLC submitted a bid and made an error in their bid, they requested to withdraw their bid. Krebs motioned to allow 7F, Services, LLC to retract their bid. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Massine motioned to approve the bid from Askin Construction in the amount of \$979,750. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Franchise Agreement with Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) is done every twenty-five years. The agreement provides easement permission to MDU to work with the City on projects. The Mayor requested for approval of the agreement upon review by Knudsen. Greer motioned to approve the renewal of the agreement upon review and recommendation by Knudsen. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed (5/1). Krebs abstained.

Mayor Purcell reported Joe Connelly has stepped out of his role on the City-County Planning Board and Jeff Hooker has agreed to fill the vacancy. Sharpe motioned to approve the appointment. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Loretta Barnes, with Help Every Pet (H.E.P.), voiced there is a people problem rather than an animal one. The goal is to spay and neuter all animals brought to them to help maintain the health and welfare of pets; it is the key to a healthy pet population. Barnes reviewed the costs for expenses, \$6,232.63, paid by H.E.P. for city related expenses. She noted they are holding their first vaccine clinic in the new building; it will cost a minimum of \$3,500 for one hundred animals. She added these costs have hindered their plans for their office and how they can serve the community and voiced how vital is to get financial help. She reported the County Commissioners have given them the opportunity to provide needs; they reimburse for every animal; kennel and vaccine needs; and H.E.P. justifies every dollar they spend every quarter. Janelle Weinberg voiced she

has been with H.E.P for over thirty-two years. She sets up the transfers for animals with Stafford Animal Shelter in Livingston. She reviewed the costs for boarding and costs associated with vaccines etc. at Animal Care Center. She noted the County gives them \$5,000 each quarter for county animals. Weinberg voiced she agreed with Devers that we all have to come together and added the problem will only get worse if we don't come up with a program. She asked if the City could give the amount of \$6,232.63, the amount they have spent on animals within the City and asked them to match the \$20,000 per year the County provides. She added they will provide quarterly reports as they do with the County. There was more discussion about their process for costs and care that are provided to the animals and owners. Chief George voiced he is on everyone's side of protecting the animals. He reviewed the process for picking up a dog at large and noted the vet wants them to issue a blank citation for animals they bring in; which is against the law. There was further discussion about the responsibility for the pet owners. Lehr was asked what was available for funds. He noted there is about \$4,000 and Council could look at the next budget year and how they want to approach it in the future. Massine motioned to go forward with \$4,000 to H.E.P. Espinoza seconded. Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz asked what the ordinance says about loose pets and how do we go about holding pet owner's accountable. Mayor Purcell noted stray animals are where the bigger issue is. Knudsen noted he has put people in jail over animals and in his opinion the ordinances are effective. Mayor Purcell voiced there is a motion on the floor that has been seconded to give \$4,000 to H.E.P. to help offset costs. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Landa Uffelman reviewed activities that are scheduled for the 6th Annual 4th of July Celebration and Cornhole Tournament. She submitted a letter requesting dumpsters, portable restrooms, blockades and street closure of the 200 Block of Center Avenue from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. July 4th, electricity in the Plaza, and street sweeping. Krebs motioned to approve the requests. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Wesley Stops, Jr. provided information about The Kingdom House Ministries and noted they are in the process of applying for a 501 C3 non-profit status. He reported the 1st Annual Wellbriety Camp Meeting is scheduled from June 27, 2024 to June 30, 2024 and will be held on Hardin Chevrolet property. He reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the resources that will be provided. Stops requested funding to support the endeavors in the wellbriety meetings. Mayor Purcell asked Lehr if the Council had any funds available. Lehr reported there is about \$200 left in the fund and noted there are costs associated with budget meetings that are coming up. The request was denied for the lack of a motion.

Jessica Mussetter, River Valley Farmers Market Manager, requested temporary road closure of the 200 Block of Center Avenue between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. every Thursday in August and the first Thursday in September, restrooms (handicap accessible), a handwashing station and picnic tables. Mussetter requested for the picnic tables to be moved to the food bank this month for repairs. Krebs motioned to approve the requests. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reviewed a quote received from Hotsy WY-MT for a new Hotsy in the amount of \$11,895. Krebs noted it is in the Capital Improvement Plan and asked if the other one is still working; does it need to be replaced. Hopes noted it has broken down in the past and Greer recommended to replace it. Massine noted that it is not portable. Hopes motioned to approve the quote for a new Hotsy. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Police Chief George reported he received a quote from LensLock, Inc for Body-Worn Cameras, In-Car Cameras, and Fixed Cameras in the amount of \$29,426 for the one-year cost and \$139,550 for the five-year cost. He received another quote from Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$148,317.80 for the 60-month plan. Chief George reported the current body cameras fall off, they are not water proof, and they die 1/3 of the way into the shift. Currently all videos are stored in house; it is not feasible and dash cameras are something that is needed. He noted the tasers the department currently has are Axon, all their products are tried and true, and the department already has the platform (licenses and contract with Axon). He reviewed the differences between the LensLock and Axon products. Chief George reported Axon offers a license plate reader and he reviewed the benefits of having one. He voiced the Axon body cameras are solid, they stay on the officers, and they can be submerged under water continuously; adding LifeLock cameras cannot be submerged. Chief George recommended to go with the Axon products; ten dash cameras, one for

the front and back of each of police vehicle, eleven body worn body cameras, and an interview camera; with installation and training for the judges and officers included in the total amount of \$29,663.56 per year for the next five years. Chief George noted an additional benefit is at thirty months there will be a refresh in the body cameras. Nathan Williams, with Axon Enterprises, Inc. noted everything is under warranty for five years no questions asked and if there are any problems with the equipment it will be shipped within twenty-four hours. Chief George provided examples of how the equipment will benefit the department. Krebs reviewed the difference in the cost for Lifelock compared to Axon. Massine asked if grant money could be used. Chief George noted he will be attending a grant meeting on the 20th of this month for information on a grant that can be applied for. Espinoza voiced the cost is worth it to get the criminals off the streets. Hopes agreed. There was further discussion about the needs of the department and the difference in the costs of the equipment requested. Espinoza motioned to approve the cost of \$29,633.56 each year for five years. Hopes seconded. Williams reported the first year including the start-up fee and license plate reader total is \$35,885.34. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Sharpe voting Nay with no response from Krebs. There was further discussion of how the license plate reader would be used to find missing people, stolen vehicles, and with homicide investigations. Chief George reviewed the process for when an officer utilizes the reader. Williams reported the license plate reader is an additional \$6,221.78 above the \$29,633.56. Hopes motioned to approve the additional \$6,221.78. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (3/3) Massine, Greer, and Hopes voting Yea and Krebs, Espinoza, and Sharpe voting Nay. Mayor Purcell broke the tie vote by voting Yea. (4/3) The motion passed.

Chief George reviewed a quote for four refurbished laptops in the amount of \$6,395.14 and a quote for four docking stations in the amount of \$3,518.63. He noted three of them will go into police vehicles and the other will go to the School Resource Officer. Greer motioned to approve the purchase of the laptops and docking stations as quoted. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Krebs asked Chief Paul George what the difference was in the radar and lidar. Chief George reported the radar is fixed within the car; mounted in the car and can be used while stationary and moving. The lidar targets one specific vehicle; they are portable. Quotes were received for two Stalker Dash Mountain Radars in the amount of \$12,075 and two Stalker Lidar XLR's in the amount of \$4,820. Krebs motioned to approve the purchases of the lidars and radars. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the tree pile at the landfill has been burned; he received bid information from Barry Damschen for the landfill canister site that will be going out to bid for the project; the drawings for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades came in this morning; the lighting at Council Chambers and the Water Treatment Plant have been upgraded to LED lights; the transmission and distribution department has been taking care of weeds and flushing hydrants, and the City crew is working to fill potholes and trim trees.

Finance:

Lehr provided a review of the audit report that was received and noted it is not finalized yet.

Lehr reported the City received the Montana Community Redevelopment Grant (MRCP) in the amount of \$30,000 and with a match of \$20,000 that will help build houses on lots; this will go hand in hand with the County Needs Assessment. He is looking to schedule Budget Meetings for Tuesday, June 25th and Tuesday July 9th, Wednesday, July 10th, and Thursday, July 11th.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported the department currently has five officers attending a drug investigation training. He recognized Officer Sean Beasley for being with the department for two years.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the County Needs Assessment has been advertised and she has currently received two proposals. She received notification the County was awarded \$30,000 from the Montana Community Redevelopment Grant (MRCP) and with the CDBG grant the County now has \$50,00 to put toward the needs assessment. The committee will review the two proposals and interviews will be held next week. Toyne added the assessment is the first step to move forward to receive grants for housing. Toyne reported she has attended multiple meetings in the region regarding tourism and housing; she continues to work with the Montana Business Attraction Team; Joe Connelly created some documents the attraction team can share with companies that are interested in Hardin and Industrial Park; and they continue to work with the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) that was assigned to them from the Housing Urban Development Grant they received.

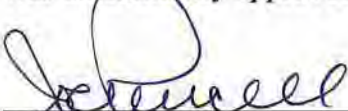
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the Hardin Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 12:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the First Alliance Church located at 934 1st Street West; Budget Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th and July 9th, 10th and 11th and continuing as needed the City will advertise for Letters of Interest for a Community Representative to serve on the Impact Fee Committee.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, School Resource, Police Service Aide (PSA), and Economic Development Director. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for June 18, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Member(s) of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for June 4, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for June 18, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
April, 2024	31092	\$ 3,745.80
May, 2024	31072-31080, 31082-31090, 31093-31100, 31102	97,601.44
June, 2024	31071, 31081, 31101, 31103-31104	<u>57,531.97</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 158,879.21

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz reported the business at the triangle on 3rd Street has vehicles parked down there again. She noted the Montana State Highway Department had been contacted in previous years adding they cannot be parked there during Little Big Horn Days. Kuntz voiced her appreciation to the police department; a parking issue near her home has been resolved.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported the Ash Contract has been sent to Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) and the City is waiting for the signed agreement.

Mayor Purcell extended a "Thank You" to Lehr for his hard work on the audit; he received high compliments from the auditors.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the Yes Coalition held a movie in the parks; it was a success. Krebs noted the new equipment for Heimat park has been delivered and voiced the parks look great.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received information about the Montana League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference, a newsletter from Phillips 66 Pipeline, and the City-County Planning Board minutes of May 13, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a recommendation from the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) to approve a Variance Application that was submitted by Patrick Sargent to build a larger garage on his property located at 622 N. Crawford Avenue. Sargent was present via Zoom. Krebs asked if there were any objections at the CCPB meeting. Kuntz nodded no. Krebs motioned to approve the recommendation of the CCPB. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Area Chamber of Commerce requested approval for a Beer and Wine Permit to include permit fees to be waived for Little Big Horn Days; scheduled from June 21st to June 23rd. Greer motioned to approve the requests. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Area Chamber of Commerce requested approval for a Beer and Wine Permit to include permit fees to be waived for the 6th Annual 4th of July Celebration. He noted the state license is still pending. Hopes motioned to approve the requests pending approval the state gives them permission; on the 200 Block only. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff requested approval to replace curb and gutter at the addresses listed in the council packets, with a 50% cost to the homeowner and 50% cost to the City. The addresses and total approximate costs: 502 N. Cody Avenue in the amount of \$9,000; 415 6th St. West in the amount of \$3,000; 421 6th St. West in the amount of \$3,000; and 601 N. Choteau Avenue in the amount of \$3,000. Kuntz asked if the City did this with sidewalks as well. Hurff reported the sidewalk is the full responsibility of the property owner; the city shares the cost of 50% for curb and gutter. Krebs motioned to approve the curb and gutter requests. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Lehr reported the City received the Community Development Block Grant for the Economic Development Strategy. He will begin to work on the Request for Proposals.

Lehr reported the first budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th and there will be a final meeting with the auditor to finalize the audit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. He added the finding will be published in the paper. Mayor Purcell extended a "Thank You" to Lehr for his work on the audit.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported the two applicants, Police Officer and School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, were approved by the Police Commission. The department has one Police Officer position open at this time and he is looking to fill that vacancy with a Police Manager.

Police Chief George reported Little Big Horn Days is scheduled for this weekend; the department will have extra officers on duty and the Sheriff's Department will also be providing assistance.

Legal:

Knudsen reported the City was served with a lawsuit about an incident that occurred two years ago. He can provide more information during a noticed closed meeting or Council members can visit with him individually at different times.

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Ordinance NO. 2024-08: City of Hardin Granting to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Franchise Rights. Mark Vinger, representative with Montana Dakota Utilities, reported this is a process that is done every twenty-five years. He reviewed the three minor changes to the existing agreement. Hopes motioned to approve the first reading of the Ordinance. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Krebs abstained.

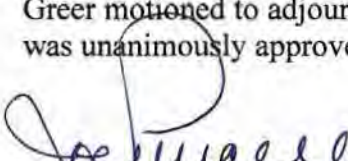
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Dean Baker, 10 years; Sean Beasley, 2 years; Brock Boyer, 2 years; Candyce Crooked Arm, 1 year; Michael Hurff, 14 years; Remington Malensek, 1 year; Tamara Mendez, 5 years; and Shawndae OldElk, 3 years.

Mayor Purcell reported the Hardin Acreage Community Focus Group is scheduled for June 20, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. at the One Health Main Campus; Budget Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th and July 9th, 10th and 11th and continuing as needed; the Letters of Interest for a Community Representative to serve on the Impact Fee Committee are due by July 9th; advertisements for bids for the Landfill Container Site will be advertised this week; and Public Notices to Destroy Weeds, Sump Pump reminders, and Fireworks Restrictions have been noticed.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: Police Officers, Police Service Aide (PSA), and Economic Development Director. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for July 2, 2024 was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Member(s) of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer .made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for June 18, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for July 2, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
May, 2024	31105, 31107-31109, 31112, 31167	\$ 101,043.40
June, 2024	31106, 31110-31111, 31113-31144, 31165-31166, 31168-31169, 31173, 31175-31188	93,221.82
July, 2024	31145-31164, 31170-31172, 31174, 31189	<u>57,081.98</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 251,347.20
June Payroll		\$ <u>226,638.58</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 44,7985.73

Hopes seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jose Funke reported Alpine Meadows and Willow Springs Mobile Home Parks are now under new management.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported as of July 1st the City is required to audio record meetings and he pointed out the two poster boards that provide examples for the City of Hardin Wayfinding Survey and noted there are QR codes that will take you to the survey to get public opinion on the wayfinding signs.

Massine asked if all public meetings need to be recorded or just Council. Mayor Purcell noted all public meetings. Massine asked if the City-County Planning Board will as well. Greer voiced they will be.

Mayor Purcell reported he granted permission for a community garage sale to be able to use the Plaza on July 12th and 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the Economic Development position has been filled by Tina Toyne and she will start next Monday.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs voiced the parks look great and he asked what the next step was for the grant for the South Park Project. Lehr noted he will reach out to them for an update.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported they are working on budgets and Hurff is working on getting bids for the landfill container site.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Sharpe reported there was a committee meeting to discuss the curb stop fund.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a letter from the Hardin Otter Swim Team thanking Council for their support. Jennifer Renshaw voiced they wanted to come to say Thank you in person for the contribution to the team and they were able to purchase an event board that will be put up in the pool.

The city received the Summer 2024 Montana Department of Transportation newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a Beer/Wine License Application from Family Dollar. Tommy Jackson, with Family Dollar, was present by Zoom and he voiced he is available for any questions. Espinoza voiced he doesn't think it should be approved because there is an alcohol problem in the city and he doesn't want to contribute to it. Hopes voiced he has talked to people in the area and they are deeply concerned, they don't want to see it; he is going to have to vote against. Funke voiced no, they can't control the theft they have daily. Krebs asked doesn't IGA have beer and wine across the street and Town Pump has beer and wine three blocks away and Montana liquor; so how is this going to contribute to any problem we already have. Krebs asked Knudsen since they have a state license if the City can turn them down. Lehr noted Knudsen is not online. Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz asked how many other Family Dollar Stores in Montana do have a beer and wine license. Jackson noted there are other stores; the stores have done this nationwide. He noted it will be a small section managed by the store; they will add security cameras; they want to make sure they hear these concerns, it is important; they will make sure employees proper training; they have met Montana state requirements that ensures everything they need to do they have done; and they want to make sure they do what is necessary to please Council. Massine asked Chief George how many calls does the police department get. Chief George noted it is an almost every day situation; people steal hand sanitizer and other things to get intoxicated and noted going in the wrong direction bringing beer and wine into the stores here. Hopes recommended to table the request until there can be some legal guidance. Krebs and Espinoza agreed. Hopes motioned to table the application. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Purcell voiced it will be tabled until the next meeting.

Barry Damschen, Damschen Consulting, LLC, reported the pre-bid meeting for the Landfill Container Site was held last Thursday, June 27th. He reviewed Amendment #29 for the City of Hardin Landfill Engineering Consulting Services in amount of \$13,000 not to exceed that amount without pre-approval. Damschen projected for the inspection to take place this fall and for the container site ready to use by the end of October. Hopes motioned to approve the agreement. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharpe reported there was a committee meeting to discuss the curb stop fund. The recommendation is to increase the City cost to 85% up to \$1,200 and for the curb stop fee to remain \$1.00 per month. Sharpe voiced he would still like to see for it to go down to .50 cents per month; he feels the City can sustain that. Massine asked Lehr if paying

out 85% would help to bring the amount of funds down or maintain. Lehr reported there would still be about \$38,000 in the fund by the end of the year. He pointed out that he has to explain to the auditor why the City has funds in the account; impossible to explain. Sharpe recommended reducing the amount to .50 cents per month for a year and revisit. Espinoza motioned to keep the curb stop fee at \$1.00 per month, raise the City portion to 85% instead of 75% with the total of \$1,200 maximum. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion failed (2/4) with Espinoza and Krebs voting Yea and Hopes, Greer, Sharpe, and Massine voting Nay. Shape motioned to set the curb stop fee at .50 cents per month, City at 85%, and raise the maximum to \$1,200. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported he updated the Computer Cost Allocations for the Police Service Aide (PSA) position and added Building/Code Enforcement. He reported he also updated the Internet Cost Allocation for the PSA/Animal Control. Massine motioned to approve the updates. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Final Audit Report for Fiscal Years 2022 & 2023. Greer motioned to approve the Final Audit Report. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported Little Horn State Bank is offering a special on CD's at 5.13%. He requested approval to transfer three CDs to the new rate. Hopes motioned to approve for Lehr to move over the three CD's. Krebs seconded. It was noted the three CD's will mature at different times. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported Little Big Horn Days went well; he received a demo of a vac truck, received good ideas for spec sheets, and is looking to go out soon for bids; hydrants are being flushed; Tru-Pipe did sewer line cleaning; the landfill department is working to build debris fences; the parks department has been working to get the parks fertilized; and chip seal on Kokomo Road is scheduled for the end of July. Hurff reported Shakespeare in the Park, Vacation Bible School, and the 4th of July Celebration are events scheduled for July.

Finance:

Lehr reported the Budget Meetings are scheduled for next Tuesday and maybe Wednesday and Thursday as needed. He noted the Wayfinding Plan Survey will be wrapping up this Friday. Interstate Engineering will provide a preliminary view of what it will like, ideas and strategies, at the next meeting. The final draft will be presented for approval at the first meeting in August.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported the employees for the Police Officer and School Resource Officer (SRO) positions have started. He announced K-9 Thundra aided in an arrest.

Corinna Kirschenmann-Kuntz asked about the vehicles parked on the state highway. Chief George voiced they will get tagged. Kuntz asked about vehicles up on the boulevard on 6th Street. Chief George voiced it would be a citation violation, not a tag.

Legal:

Mayor Purcell reported Knudsen was unable to attend the meeting. A Closed Session will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported she, Mayor Purcell, and Lehr did interviews for the Request for Proposals for the County Housing Needs Assessment. Ayres was selected for the County Housing Needs Assessment. Toyne voiced she plans to continue to work on the assessment; the Wayfinding Planning; and the grants received renovation for Homes for Hardin and the CDBG Economic Strategy Grant. She voiced she is excited about her new career with the City.

Mayor Purcell reported the City did not receive Pilot Grant in the amount of \$2.7 million. The City will reapply and hopefully get the grant in the next round.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2368 – Establishing Wages for Certain City Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2369 – Establishing Wages for Non-Union Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Krebs motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2370 – Establishing Wages for Hardin City Police Department Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Krebs motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2371 – Authorizing City Finance Officer to Transfer Interest Earned in Investments to the Public Safety Fund. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2372 – Approving Appointment of a Non-Union Salaried Employee and Wages for FY 2024/2025. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2373– Approving Application for License to Serve Beer, Beer and Wine or Liquor. Under New Business Hopes motioned to table the application. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-08: Second Reading - City of Hardin Granting to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Franchise Rights. Massine motioned to approve the second reading of the Ordinance. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Krebs abstained.

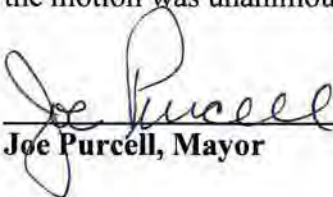
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced Budget Meetings are scheduled for July 9th, 10th and 11th and continuing as needed; City Offices are closed Thursday, July 4, 2024 for Independence Day; the Letters of Interest for a Community Representative to serve on the Impact Fee Committee are due by July 9th; and Landfill Container Site Bids are due July 9, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. and the Bid Opening is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. the same day.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officers. Part-Time positions: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. Positions are open until filled.

CLOSED SESSION – Legal: Postponed to next meeting.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for July 16, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Member(s) of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for July 2, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Finance/Budget Meeting as written for June 25, 2024. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Massine motioned to approve the Resolutions or Ordinances Meeting for June 25, 2024. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for July 16, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
June, 2024	31190-31200, 31203, 31205-31206, 31209-31217, 31221, 31224-31225	\$ 53,110.60
July, 2024	31201-31202, 31204, 31207-31208, 31218-31220, 31222-31223	\$ 89,949.66
Total Submitted		\$ 143,060.26

Hopes seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz voiced the City is starting to take shape; cleaned up and the town looks nice. She asked about vehicles parked on the boulevard on 6th street, vehicles parked on 3rd Street at the triangle, and two motor homes. Mayor Purcell asked if she had filed complaints with code enforcement and asked for them to be filed with him so he can follow up and address them. Police Chief George referenced the vehicles at the triangle and noted the owner has moved all of them off of 3rd Street and is moving them off of the South East corner.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported negotiations have started for the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has full time openings for a Police Officer and Police Service Aide and part time openings for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported an email was received approving the South Park Project Grant through the State and now the application goes to the Federal level; the application is not complete yet.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a newsletter from the Montana Department of Transportation updating the Hardin Rest Area Restoration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knudsen reported the Beer/Wine License Application from Family Dollar was tabled at the last meeting. He reported Senate Bill 262 went into effect and noted that denying them a license would violate the state law. Krebs motioned to approve the Family Dollar Beer and Wine Liquor license. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Hopes abstaining and then voting Nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cole Kirschenmann reported GateWay Christian Center and Set Free Church are hosting a youth outreach event on August 12th at Wilson Park; the skate park. He is requesting for the street to be blocked off at Cody Avenue and 10th Street South to the end of the chain link fence at the Mormon Church. He voiced there will be free food and giveaways of skate boards and a few trick bikes. Kirschenmann also requested bathrooms and a handwashing station. Greer asked about the need for an ADA restroom. Kirschenmann agreed. Massine motioned to approve the requests. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Rachel Laqua and Dave Wiosna, with Interstate Engineering, were present by Zoom. Lockley provided the history, purpose, and goals, of the Wayfinding Plan. She reported Hardin received a grant from the state of Montana that helps in identifying destinations to visitors of Hardin. Interstate Engineering and Cushing Terrel have been working together for a few months on the goal in time for the City to apply for implementation. Currently there is a list of twenty-seven destinations. The signs will meet Montana Department of Transportation standards and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines. There are multiple sign designs. She noted they attended Little Big Horn Days and collected eighty-five in person votes and twenty-four comments and thirty-nine votes with seventeen comments from the online survey; and they received about twenty-one responses from Facebook. Laqua reviewed Options 1 and 2. Cory Kenney expressed his concern of the presentation of the signs. Greer asked if the route on the design was the quickest route to the hospital. Wiosna noted it can be adjusted as needed; they try to make them as direct as possible. Kenney noted the signs that he saw presented are not the best signs for a hospital sign. Mayor Purcell pointed out the Blue H signs for the hospitals will not be removed. There was further discussion about the online survey. He voiced nothing is final, just a draft at this point and all input is welcome.

Mayor Purcell voiced the Impact Fee Advisory Committee term expires every two years. The City advertised for Letters of Interest to serve as a representative and there were no letters submitted. He noted he will look for a candidate to appoint as a representative for the committee.

Lehr reviewed a cost breakdown from DIS Technologies and Century Link/Lumen for new phones. The DIS quote is \$663.60 monthly with the total of \$47,816 over sixty months compared to CenturyLink/Lumen in the amount of \$58,882.20. He noted the City leases the phones they currently have from Century Link/Lumen for about \$480 a month; this fee would go away with the DIS phone system. Lehr added if we have a problem, DIS is available. Lehr reviewed the DIS system and recommended to go forward with them. He noted the upfront cost of \$8,000 includes the purchase of the phones. Chris Schneider noted that he has had to call DIS several times, they help right away. There was further discussion about cost comparison. Krebs motioned to approve going to DIS Technologies. Hopes seconded. On voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Lehr reported the City was approved by the state for the Land Water Conservation Fund grant (LWCF), for the South Park Project, and City is waiting for the National Park Service to give final approval.

Lehr reported he and Toyne will be working on the Request For Qualifications (RFQ's) for the CDBG Economic Development Strategy Grant and the Montana Community Reinvestment and he is waiting to receive the Certified Taxable Values.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service.

Legal:

Knudsen reported a Closed Session is scheduled following meeting.

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2373 – Approving Application for License to Serve Beer, Beer and Wine or Liquor. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Hopes voted Nay.

Resolution NO. 2374 – Setting Fees for the Curb Stop and Curb Stop Box Replacement Fund. Sharpe motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2375 – Establishing Wages of Non-Union Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Krebs asked if the raises fall in line with the union raises that were approved last meeting. Mayor Purcell reported these two are higher based off of the change in job duties between Public Works and City Finance. Lehr has now taken on grant writing and grant management and Hurff continues with the Assistant Public Works piece and he is now the CDL Instructor for the City. Greer motioned to approve the resolutions. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2376 – Authorizing City Finance Officer to Transfer Certain Debt and Lease Obligations to the Public Safety Fund. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance NO. 2024-09: Amending Hardin City Code Curb Stop and Curb Stop Box Replacement Fund. Massine motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Austin Gearhart, 2 years; Paul George, Jr., 1 year; Nathan McConnell, 1 year; Michael O'Riehl, 2 years; and Justin Strait, 1 year. Alley Clean-up is scheduled for Monday, July 29th – Please have items out early that morning.

Mayor Purcell announced an Addendum #1 to the Landfill Container Site Bid has been noticed, they are due by July 30, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. and the bids opening is scheduled for 3:00 p.m.; Public Hearing for Budget Amendments FY 2023/2024 is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6:10 p.m. and Street Maintenance District & Levies and Assessments FY 2024/2025 is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6:20 p.m., both in Council Chambers; Garbage Truck Bids will be advertised and the bids will be due by August 7, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.; Interior Lining of Concrete Water Tank Bids and Vac-Con Truck Bids will be noticed.

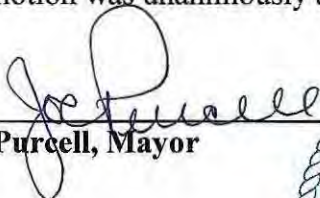
The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officers and Police Service Aide. Part-Time positions: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. Positions are open until filled.

Mayor Purcell performed Oaths of Office for Police Officer Tyler Nedens and Police Officer Laurie Welch.

The Council Meeting closed at 7:26 p.m. for a CLOSED SESSION – Legal.

The Closed Session began at 7:28 p.m.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for Amendments to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was opened at 6:10 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:

Council Members Steven Hopes, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

Mayor Purcell opened the meeting for discussion or Public Comment.

Lehr reviewed the Budget Amendment Form – Compliance with Montana Local Budget Act: MCA 7-6-40 that provides Budget Amendment Documentation. He noted the form provides amendment information for each line item.

Public Comment: Laurie Tschetter, local business owner, voiced the City owns an easement in the that comes through the middle of her RV Park and has asked in the past to not be charged for the square footage of the creek.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for Street Maintenance District, and levies and assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was opened at 6:20 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:

Council Members Steven Hopes, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

Laurie Tschetter reported the creek by her RV Park almost overflowed the other night. She has paperwork showing the City has an easement of the creek that runs through her park and the City is in charge of the maintenance. She noted she asked in the past for a bigger culvert. She added she has been paying to maintain it and it is a problem. She voiced she didn't know if she should pay taxes (street assessments) on square footage for something the city owns. Mayor Purcell noted the City will have to look further into it.

Jose Funke, resident, voiced Bonanza Court floods every time there is rain, there is not a drain over there, and there is a fire hydrant that needs to be done. He expressed further concern about the ditch by his house.

Cory Kenney asked how much they went up. Lehr voiced four percent per the budget meeting.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Mayor Purcell announced all meetings are audio recorded

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for August 6, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Clayton Greer and Chris Sharpe were both excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for July 16, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Espinoza motioned to approve the Resolutions or Ordinances Committee Minutes as written for July 2, 2024, they were previously approved with the date of June 25, 2024. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hopes made a motion to approve the claims for August 6, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
June, 2024	31226, 31231, 31235, 31246-31251, 31279, 31285, 31289-31290, 31313	\$ 41,706.78
July, 2024	31227-31230, 31232-31234, 31236-31245, 31252-31254, 31275-31278, 31280-31284, 31286-31288, 31291-31292 31294-31312, 31314-31327	447,197.43
August, 2024	31255-31274, 31293	<u>2,015.12</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 490,919.33
July Payroll		\$ <u>233,103.51</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 724,022.84

Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Funke expressed concern of an incident he had with someone driving intoxicated and his interaction with dispatch; his concerns of speeding vehicles; street repairs; and a fire hydrant that needs repair. He also voiced concern of approval of liquor licenses. Mayor Purcell noted alcohol is not regulated by the City, it is a State regulation, the City cannot deny it if it falls into the proper zoning.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported half of the complaint/concern forms that come in are anonymous and the City can't really act on them much, we can look into things, but if there are questions, or we need to do a follow up there is nobody to call. He asked if someone is to put in a complaint/concern, please put their name on it so the City can follow up with you. He reported they did get through the first version of the negotiations for the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement and there will be more discussions; and he voiced all City public meetings are recorded and are posted on the City website.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City held interviews for the janitor position and interviews for the Police Service Aide position are scheduled for next week. There are full time openings for one Police Officer and Police Service Aide and part time openings for a Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance.

Krebs left the meeting at 6:42 p.m. for a work-related emergency. He noted he will call into the meeting. There will not be a quorum until Krebs joins the meeting.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Mayor Purcell reported the City is waiting on the grant information to come back for the South Park Project.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the Montana League of Cities and Towns 2024 Annual Conference will be held in West Yellowstone; October 2nd to October 4th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported there is a letter of recommendation from Barry Damschen regarding the Landfill Canister Site bids. Hurff reported the City held the Bid opening for the Landfill Canister Site; all requirements were met by the contractors. He noted the project estimate for the project was \$110,00 to \$115,000 and the bids came in around \$464,000 (\$464,500) and \$508,000 (\$509,555); quite a bit over budget. He and Damschen will look into as many options as they can to see what can be done and get it back into the budget, i.e. maybe moving the site, smaller canisters, etc. Mayor Purcell reported the recommendation from Damschen is to deny the bids and to reassess before moving forward. Mayor Purcell noted until Krebs logs in, there cannot be a vote. Espinoza asked about grants. Hurff noted Lehr looked into a grant for that and he was told it was not new construction, Lehr will try again to get it switched to new construction. Lehr noted that funding has been switched to the water projects to decrease the amount of local funding that has to be used. Espinoza noted Krebs is online to be let into the meeting. He was unable to connect.

Lehr began reviewing the Pledge Report. Krebs joined the meeting by speaker phone at 6:59 p.m. Lehr continued to review the report. Massine motioned to approve the report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell went back to the Landfill Canister Site Bid discussion and noted Damschen recommended to deny the bids and reassess to make a new plan and move forward with a different approach. He asked if there was further discussion or comments. Massine motioned to deny the Landfill Canister Site proposals at this time. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Certified Taxable Values (CTV's) that were received yesterday, the first Monday in August. There will be no action taken at this time.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported Garbage Truck Bids will be opened tomorrow, August 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. He voiced the bid notices for the Tank Liner and Vac Truck Jetter Truck have been pulled; he will update the spec sheets and go back out to bid. Hurff reported a demonstration of a Vac Truck will be scheduled in the next week or two; the Kokomo road approach has been installed by Wharton Construction and they are set up to do chip seal in the next week or two; the Hotsy has been installed in the shop area, some wiring will need to be upgraded; he is looking at this week to get the footing and floor poured for the sand shed and then the installation can get scheduled with S Bar S; the construction on 1st Street is scheduled to kick-off on the 12th of August; the mixers are set for September; Cody Avenue will be closed down for a skate event at Wilson Park on August 12th; the 200 Block is closed on Thursdays for the Farmer's Market; and Alley Clean-Up will continue this week.

Finance:

Lehr reviewed the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report. Mayor Purcell verified Krebs was present. Hopes motioned to approve the report. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported a speed trailer has been built that will be deployed around the City and another one is being built. Interviews for the Police Service Aide position have been scheduled for next Tuesday. He noted the Mayor touched on the

subject of needing code enforcement complaints in writing and he also needs complaints to be in writing to take before the City Attorney to subpoena people. He noted the law requires there needs to be justification of why a particular property is a nuisance; anonymous complaints don't work for the police department either. Knudsen reported he has to prove to the court that it is a nuisance to a group of people and court would require for him to show who the people are and he can put them on the stand. He has to prove it is a public nuisance to multiple people.

Krebs asked if all the officers are trained, certified in DUI screening. Chief George noted the only two that aren't are he and Officer Imasa and they will be receiving the training soon.

Krebs asked if the department received the radars and lidars. Chief George reported the lidars have been used and he is waiting for the radars to be installed.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported she and Lehr attended a kick off meeting for the Housing Needs Assessment with Ayers Associates and the County Commissioner's; she will remain the point person for the assessment for the County. She and Lehr have been working on the Request for Qualifications (RFP) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) the City received for the Economic Development Strategy. Toyne noted she has been working on organizing her office and there are several projects in the works that she will be reporting on soon.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2377 – Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Massine motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2378 – Assessing the Cost of Street Maintenance in District #1 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 . Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

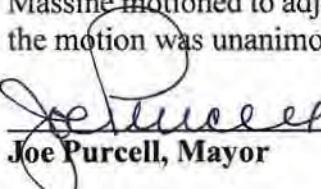
Ordinance NO. 2024-09: Second Reading - Amending Hardin City Code Curb Stop and Curb Stop Box Replacement Fund. Hopes motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced Garbage Truck Bids are due by August 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.; the bid notice for the Interior Lining of the Concrete Water Tank has been pulled; the City-County Planning Board has scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the Morton Zone Change; and the Hardin Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, August 15th from 12:15 - 6:15 p.m. at the First Alliance Church.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officers and Police Service Aide. Part-Time positions: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. Positions are open until filled.

Massine motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for August 20, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Member(s) of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for August 6, 2024. Motion seconded by Espinoza. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe abstained. Espinoza motioned to approve the minutes as written for the Public Hearings of August 6, 2024. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe abstained.

Mayor Purcell noted the amount for payee JMG Contracting INC, was for the gravel pit and not the sand shed. Greer made a motion to approve the claims for August 20, 2024 with the correction as noted.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
June, 2024	31354, 31359-31360	\$ 29,977.87
July, 2024	31328, 31330-31333, 31335-31341, 31343-31352, 31358	\$ 75,160.47
August, 2024	31329, 31334, 31342, 31353-31357 31361-31365	\$ 7,736.35
Total Submitted		\$ 112,874.69

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported negotiations continue for the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement; City Public meetings are recorded and can be listened to on the website; lead line survey and instructions have been sent out with a return date of September 13th; and he, Toyne, and Lehr will be meeting with the Department of Commerce to review the Pilot Grant application.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported interviews were completed for the Janitor and Police Service Aide Positions; they are going through the pre-employment process. The City has full time openings for a Police Officer and a part time opening for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice.

Sewer & Water:

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the City received final approval for the \$150,000 match from the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for the South Park Project; \$150,000 will come from the grant and \$150,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He added Lehr will be applying for a grant through T-Mobile for \$50,000 to contribute to the project. Krebs voiced they are working to get started as soon as they can to get the funds allocated from ARPA by December 31st. He noted he has been looking into splash pads and calling around for quotes on plans for a 60' x 40' pavilion; federal grant regulations require three quotes.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported there was a meeting where they went over final budget updates.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received the City-County Planning Board minutes from the meeting of June 10, 2024 and a newsletter from the Montana Department of Transportation updating the Hardin Rest Area Restoration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a letter of recommendation from the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) to approve a Zone Change Application submitted by Natasha Morton. Morton voiced her office is zoned as R1 and she would like to have the zoning aligned to what the use is. The CCPB recommendation is to change the zoning of the property at 502 N. Crow Avenue, Hardin, MT 59034 from R1 to R2. Krebs motioned to approve the recommendation. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Espinoza abstained.

Mayor Purcell reported In Control, Inc. submitted a proposal in the amount of \$30,366 for computer upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant. Massine motioned to accept the proposal from In Control. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported Bids for the Garbage Truck were opened on August 7th. He noted the current garbage truck, the most recent purchased, is an Autocar ACX64 with Heil and rapid rail which matches the bid option #1 from Floyds Truck Center. The bids were reviewed by Hurff recommending bid Option #1 from Floyds Truck Center. Massine motioned to go forward with Floyds Truck Center bid Option #1 in the amount of \$433,784. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed Mill Levies and the Permissive Medical Levy for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and reported the total mills the City can levy is 160.08. The committee recommended 21.58 for the Permissive Medical Levy and 3.48 will be levied for the 10 Year Government Review with a total of 185.14 mills for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Massine motioned to approve total mills. Greer seconded. On voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharpe motioned to approve the State Entitlement Distribution for Fiscal Year 2025. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff provided an update of current projects: 1st Street Project – they are working to get the temporary water tied in for the water main replacement; 6th Street manhole Project - they are working to order the manhole to be replaced; and chip seal on Kokomo road is scheduled for sometime after Labor Day. Hurff reported the milling and chip seal that will be done on Railway is not a City project, but Stahly Engineering is working on the project and they contacted him asking if the City was interested in getting part of the 200 Block redone at the same time as their project. The cost estimate is about \$43,000 for a 2" overlay and chip seal. Hurff reviewed the area of the 200 Block that would be redone. It was voiced by Hopes, Greer, and Krebs they would like for Hurff to move forward with looking into it; Hurff will bring the information before Council. Hurff reported the insulation and underdrain for the sand shed has been installed and he will schedule with S Bar S to put the building up.

Hurff reported the hydrant at Jose Funke's has been repaired and the concrete work for the sidewalk is being done around it. He reviewed options to keep the water moving in the right direction in that area. Hurff noted a culvert at the river needs to be replaced and he is looking to install the park equipment soon in Heimat Park.

Finance:

Lehr reported the City received the Rural Development SCBA grant money in the amount of \$44,000; the City portion is \$56,000. The City is applying for the T-Mobile grant will help with the splash park. The Wayfinding Plan will be on next Council agenda for approval. Interstate Engineering submitted a close to final bill a little over \$44,000. The Montana Main Street Grant covered \$33,000 of that, the County covered almost \$7,000, and the City will cover the remaining \$4,600. Lehr reported the plan includes branding for the City that will be incorporated into a new City website and with the new design the plan is to move away from the .com to a .gov website to align more with the kind of organization we are.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported it was mentioned last meeting more traffic enforcement for speeding vehicles and DUI's was wanted, traffic stops near doubled. The County is moving to a radio trucking system; this will provide better communication, there will not be any dead zones in the County as far as radio communication. The radios the police department currently have will be useless; new radios will need to be purchased to have communication with the County.

Officer Rennie Imasa is attending Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training in Helena at the Academy and Officer Laurie Welch, School Resource Officer (SRO,) will be attending Child Forensic Interview Training next week. Interviews were concluded for the Police Service Aide position and Officer Tyler Nedens and Officer Ishmael Perin are attending the Police Academy.

Police Chief George voiced school starts next Monday and urged everyone to drive as if their own children were walking to school. He reported they have been towing vehicles in the city that don't have insurance; he expressed concerns of the tow fees that are charged to the vehicle owners and provided some possible solutions.

Legal:

Knudsen reported he informed Council months ago the City was being sued and he was just informed the case has been settled. He added he can give more details in a Closed session at the next Council meeting.

Economic Development:

Toyne noted she has been working with Lehr on some of the projects he mentioned. They are working on the Request for Qualifications for the Economic Development Strategy and they will begin to work on the Infill and Renovation Request for Proposals.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2379 – Authorizing Public Works Director to Purchase Motor Vehicles Pursuant to the Capital Improvement Plan. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced City offices will be closed Monday, September 2, 2024 for Labor Day and a Public Hearing for Adopting the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and setting mill levies, assessments and user fees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Steffen Peters, 6 years and Chris Schneider, 19 years

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time positions: General Laborer and Police Officer; Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Massine motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for the Final Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and setting mill levies, assessments and user fees was opened at 6:20 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:
Council Members Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

Mayor Purcell opened the meeting for discussion or Public Comment.
Lehr reviewed changes to the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
Mayor Purcell asked if there were any comment. There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for September 3, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for August 20, 2024. Motion seconded by Sharpe. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Finance/Budget Committee Minutes as written for August 20, 2024. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Hopes motioned to approve the Closed Meeting minutes of July 16, 2024. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for September 3, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
July, 2024	31366	\$ 12,075.00
August, 2024	31367, 31388-31418, 31421-31436	\$ 175,911.23
September, 2024	31368-31387, 31419-31420	<u>\$ 2,450.12</u>
Total Submitted		\$ 190,436.35

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jean Drew, resident, voiced she lives down the street and there has been an issue with the dogs next door. She reported five of them attacked a mail person. She cannot walk down the street with her dog; they are off-leash and they have no fence. Mayor Purcell voiced he, Knudsen, and the

Police Chief will look at City Code. There was further discussion about the vicious dog ordinance and Chief Paul George provided information that can help with the reporting process.

Funke extended a "Thank You" to Hurff and employees for their assistance with the ditch next to his home and also to the Police Department for their assistance with an incident.

MAYOR:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the Police Service Aide (PSA) position is pending background check and the City currently has openings for General Laborer to Maintenance Worker III, a Police Officer, and a part-time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement apprentice; all positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported a new water line is being put in next to the hospital.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported Railway is being paved this week.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported he has been working with Lehr and Hurff on the South Park Project. There are items on the agenda for approval that include concrete work, playground equipment, and a pavilion. He reported \$150,000 is funded by a Land Water Conservation Grant the City received and another \$150,000 will be funded through the American Rescue Plan. He has reached out to Tanner Watson, of Northwestern Energy, about getting power to the gazebo and splash pad when they are installed.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the Wayfinding plan was put together through a grant to redo a logo for the City, signage for locations, services, parks, hospital etc. Greer voiced in the wayfinding plan, the signages look like it is leading to the West side of town and then all the way down 3rd Street. Mayor Purcell asked if the signs can be adjusted. Rachel Laqua, with Interstate Engineering and present by Zoom, noted they can. Mayor Purcell recommended looking at it again to streamline the process. She asked to please let her know where they are; it would be helpful. There was further discussion about the directions provided by the signs. Greer asked about the directional sign for the Sheriff's Office pointing towards Yellowtail Dam instead of to the left and Krebs asked if there could be one to the City Police Department. After further discussion, Mayor Purcell reported there should be one downtown for the Police Department. Laqua voiced they can be reviewed again before final placement. Hopes motioned to accept the Wayfinding report with those conditions. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported Hurff received bids from John Deere in the amount of \$16,300 for a Gator and from Basecamp Billings in the amount of \$12,929.40 for a Polaris. There was discussion about each vehicle. Hopes motioned to approve the purchase of the John Deere. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe voting Nay.

Mayor Purcell reviewed two bids that were submitted to repair 50 foot by 4 foot of sidewalk and some curb repair around South Park. Sharpe motioned to approve Hardin

Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$6,219. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reviewed three bids that were received to install 320 feet of sidewalk at South Park, in front of the new development area. Krebs reported he took all three contractors to the location. Greer asked if they all include handicap bumps. Krebs provided information about where they would be installed around the new area. Greer motioned to accept the bid from Eric Day. Espinoza seconded. Mayor Purcell reported the bid from Day and Night Concrete in the amount of \$25,378 for the concrete project in South Park. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Krebs reported he received bids for playground equipment for the South Park Project. He received three separate bids from Playground Boss for three different pieces of equipment; they include installation, but concrete is not included and will be an additional cost. Krebs voiced the bid from WillyGoat includes installation and concrete work with a total of \$56,057. Mayor Purcell reviewed the bid amounts. Hopes motioned to accept the bid from WillyGoat. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Krebs reported he received bids for a 60'x 40'x14' pavilion for the South Park Project. He reviewed the dimensions of the pavilion, where it would be located, and how it may be used. Krebs recommended the bid from U.S. National Steel for \$28,117.50 that includes pillars, installation and shipping. Krebs noted the companies did request for the City to provide a telehandler lift to be available for them to use; they can rent one through Lumberzacs and the City will reimburse. Hopes motioned to accept the bid in the amount of \$28,117.50. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported he reached out to Knife River to find out if they could black top the South 200 Block and Center Avenue while they are here paving Railway. He would have to take in the milling machine that same day, so he has asked them for another estimate and the price was out of range. Askin is still working on a price for that project. Mayor Purcell asked about the 1st Street Project. Hurff reported there is a change order for the project.

Finance:

Lehr reported the new phones have been installed and the City has a new phone number; (406) 665-9260.

Lehr reported the City received the payment information for the September payment for the Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD) debt; he submitted the application for the T-Mobile grant and requested the full \$50,000 to help with the South Park Project; the first change order for the 1st Street Project was received in the amount of \$5,000 as needed; there was an amendment to the grant the City sponsors for Lodge Grass; and the Janitor/Facilities Maintenance position has been filled.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported Officer Rennie Imasa completed the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training and now all officers are certified. Officer Laurie Welch is now certified in Child Forensic Interview; and the Police Department is on the same phone system as the City.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Tina Toyne reported the Crow Tribe received \$2.5 Million in Home ARP funds for the Western Motel; she and Lehr visited with Tony Brockman, the Business Attraction Community Liaison with the Department of Commerce; the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Economic Development Strategy has been posted with a deadline of October 3rd; she continues to work on the RFQ for the Infill and Redevelopment Housing Program to have ready by the end of September; she will remain the point person for the County Housing Needs Assessment and she will meet with AYERS Associates to set up a community tour.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2380 – Assessing Lighting District NO. 1. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2381 – Assessing Lighting District NO. 54. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2382 – Assessing the Cost of Garbage Disposal. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2383 – Assess Unpaid Assessments Against Real Property. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2384 – Adopting the Final Budget Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2385 – Taxes/Levies Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2386 – Amending the Landfill Fee Schedule. Hopes motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

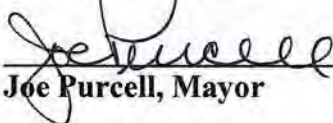
Mayor Purcell announced the new City Phone Number is (406) 665-9260; the City-County Planning Board will have a Public Hearing for the Glick Zone Change request on Monday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.; the Plenty Doors Community Development Program has a Homebuyer Education Class scheduled for Saturday, September 14th at the Plenty Doors Building in Crow Agency; and the Request for Qualifications for the Community Development Block Grant are due by Thursday, October 3, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officer and General Laborer or Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker III. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

The Council Meeting closed at 7:45 p.m. for a CLOSED LEGAL SESSION – Legal.

The Closed Session began at 7:46 p.m. and ended at 7:48 p.m.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARINGS: The Public Hearings for Amending the Cost of Street Maintenance in District #1 and the Cost of Garbage Assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was opened at 6:20 p.m. by Mayor Joe Purcell.

Present at the hearing were:
Council Members Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., and Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and members of the Public

Mayor Purcell opened the meeting for discussion or Public Comment.

Laurie Tschetter, local business owner, voiced her concerns about the cost of street maintenance at the campground. Espinoza entered the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Tschetter noted the community cannot handle an increase like this again.

Carole Fox asked what the increase was. Lehr reported this amendment isn't to increase it more; Council passed a 3% increase for Street Maintenance at the last meeting; this is an amendment adding in parcels that were annexed in. Mayor Purcell noted the increases were approved in the budget.

Mayor Purcell asked if there was any comment. It was noted the increases approved in the budget were 3% for Street Maintenance and 4% for Garbage.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for September 17, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and members of the public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Sharpe made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for September 3, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written for September 3, 2024. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Hopes motioned to approve the Closed meeting minutes for September 3, 2024. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for September 17, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
August, 2024	31437-31438, 3140-31441, 31443-31473, 31478-31479	\$ 241,291.69
September, 2024	31439, 31442, 31474-31476	\$ 320,427.04
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 561,718.73

August Payroll **\$ 350,061.54**

TOTAL Submitted **\$ 911,780.27**

Massine seconded. Krebs asked if Love's was contacted for any contribution to the Kokomo Road approach. Greer voiced to submit a bill to them. It was noted Hurff had sent them a letter. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carolyn Dawes, resident, voiced her concerns about problem neighbors, for the last twelve years; and how she has had to call law enforcement over the last few days. She voiced she is frustrated as a homeowner and provided information about the problems she and her family have experienced. There was discussion about City Codes and State Law. It was noted they would be further looked into.

Jose Funke, resident, voiced he would like to bring Neighborhood Watch back again and asked about getting bikes for City Police Officers into next years' budget.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported Union Contract negotiations continue for the Police Department; lead line surveys were due September 13th; the Ash Contract was signed by Rocky Mountain Power; the School Resource Contract is at the school for approval; and he is working with Animal Care Center on a contract for the pound services.

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

The City currently has openings for a full-time Police Officer and General Laborer to Maintenance Worker III, and a part -time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement apprentice; all positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the new water line is about complete; they are doing tests today.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported Alley Clean Up is scheduled for September 30th and the street on railway is finished. Espinoza noted he has received a complaint about the fiber going in around town; they have pylons next to driveways and residents are worried they will get hit. He asked if maybe Hurff can call to see if they can move them.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the approved Pavilion bid is waiting to be signed; he added the contractors are in contact with each other and are coordinating the project. The playground equipment contract is waiting on final approval by the company; and Hurff is working on the Request for Proposals for a splash pad. Krebs added the crew has been working putting in the playground equipment at Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer asked about going out to bid for the Landfill Project again. He requested a Landfill Committee Meeting to be scheduled at the next Council Meeting.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received City-County Planning Board minutes of August 12, 2024; information from the Hardin School District 17 for Active ALICE Training; and a newsletter from the Montana Department of Transportation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a recommendation from the City-County Planning Board to approve the Zone Change Application submitted by Nolan Foster,

engineer, on behalf of Nelson and Clara Glick. The property is located at the east end on Gable Boulevard. Michael Ebert, resident, voiced he lives in the neighborhood they are talking about and he didn't buy his property to have it devalued by having semi-trucks sitting over there. He asked to not let this go through and provided information about the Fed Ex trailers that come through there. He asked again to please do not allow this to happen; there are other places they can go; and to maintain that neighborhood value. Mayor Purcell voiced the approval of the zoning change does not approve Fed Ex; they would have to apply for a conditional use. Greer noted he didn't think trucks with three trailers could make that corner and the consensus has been to not force semi traffic into residential areas. It was clarified letters were sent to the properties within one hundred and fifty feet. Laurie Tschetter voiced she doesn't want this for anybody who lives in that area. Massine and Krebs voiced concerns. Greer motioned to deny the application. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reviewed the Askin Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$169,058.78. Greer motioned to approve the pay application. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Event Notice and Continuing Disclosures for the Tax Industrial Development Revenue Bonds (TIFD). Greer motioned to approve the report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Massine motioned to approve the Ice Slicer quote in the amount of \$7,170.60. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Council Meeting of November 5th falls on Election Day and asked if Council wanted to reschedule the meeting. Krebs motioned to reschedule the meeting of Tuesday, November 5, 2024 to Monday, November 4, 2024. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the sand shed is scheduled to start tomorrow and chip seal was done on Kokomo Road today. Krebs asked when the park restrooms will be closing. Hurff noted it depends on weather.

Finance:

Lehr provided a review the Annual Report for the Tax Increment Finance District for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024., adding it will formally go before Council at the next meeting.

Lehr reported the state budget will be turned in this week to the Department of Administration; special assessments and Mill Levies 2023/2024 for Fiscal Year 2025 have been submitted to the Department of Revenue and the County. Lehr reviewed payments made by Rocky Mountain Power. Tschetter voiced Rocky Mountain Power not paying their taxes is affecting all of us in this town; they pay after we do the budget. She asked about sending them a letter for them to realize what they are doing to the residents.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported School Resource Officer Laurie Welch started at the school full time this week and he extended a "Thank You" to Officer Welch for her service; National Police Women's Day was last week.

Corrina Kirschenmann-Kuntz expressed concerns about vehicles being moved, areas that need to be cleaned up, and signs at vacant businesses. Tschetter pointed out businesses that haven't taken care of their properties. Mayor Purcell voiced there are things in motion that may not be seen on the surface; letters and fines are going out. Police Chief George voiced to send code enforcement issues to code enforcement; the new Police Service Aide's primary duty is animal control, Police is criminal enforcement, and Joe Connelly is code enforcement. Mayor Purcell reported the key is to please fill out complaint forms. Espinoza asked why doesn't code enforcement come to the meetings. Mayor Purcell noted he is not a department head; he is an employee. Jose Funke voiced his thoughts about code enforcement; codes being enforced for vehicles being on lawns and loose dogs. Mayor Purcell asked Funke to please do his research and know facts before coming in to make accusations. Hopes asked if a brief report can be given to Council and Mayor Purcell noted he can have a report next time. Hopes voiced he doesn't have to show up. Lehr voiced code enforcement cannot write a citation, he is not a police officer. This is why he asks for complaints. Upon further discussion, Mayor Purcell halted discussion. Knudsen reviewed state laws and the

process for violations; he will write the complaints. Mayor Purcell voiced the process needs to start with a citizen complaint; then it goes forward.

Legal:

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2387 – Cancelling the 2024 Election for 2024 Local Government Review Study Commission, and Declaring the Election by Acclamation. Mayor Purcell reported there are three positions open to serve on the commission; one person put in and will automatically be elected; he will look at appointing two more people to the commission. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Espinoza seconded. Knudsen provided information about the appointment process and that the individuals would come before Council for approval. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2388 – Amending Street Maintenance in District #1 Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Sharpe motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2389 – Amending Garbage Assessments Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the new City Phone Number is (406) 665-9260; Alley Clean-Up is scheduled for September 30th; and the Request for Qualifications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) are due by Thursday, October 3, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officer and General Laborer or Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker III. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


~~Joe Purcell, Mayor~~

Acting Mayor-Jeremy Krebs

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for October 1, 2024 was called to order at 6:45 p.m. with Council President Jeremy Krebs presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Steven Hopes was excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Sharpe made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for September 17, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Massine motioned to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written for September 17, 2024. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for October 1, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
September, 2024	31480-31485, 31506-31509, 31511-31530, 31534-31540	\$ 782,963.66
October, 2024	31486-31505, 31531-31533,31541	\$ 5,108.47
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 788,072.13

Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MAYOR:

Krebs reported the Mayor is attending the Montana League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference in West Yellowstone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Krebs reported Mayor Purcell will provide a report at the next meeting.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the construction crew is working on the water and sewer lines. He voiced the walking track behind the community center still has rebar laying on the track and the frisbee disk is laying on the ground.

**Law Enforcement:
Streets & Alleys:**

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported Day and Night Concrete will start on the concrete at South park on Monday. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the splash pad will be sent out; looking to have it go before Council at the second meeting in November. The RFP will ask for an alternate bid to include \$50,000 in additional features in case the City receives the T-Mobile grant. The contracts for the pavilion, playground equipment, and concrete have all been signed and scheduled for installation. It was noted the park restrooms were closed today.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported there was a committee meeting regarding the landfill canister site. Greer made a motion to have Hurff meet with Barry Damschen, landfill engineer, to get the fees locked down, Damschen had said around \$5,000, and seek approval to move on so the City will be able to bid it. Massine motioned to approve for Hurff to contact Damschen. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jean Drew, resident, asked where the City was at on dogs. She reported the dogs are gone. Knudsen noted it is in City Court.

NEW BUSINESS:

Krebs reported there is a request to close the 200 Block for Trunk or Treat. Massine made the motion to approve. Ginnie Ladwig, Chamber of Commerce, requested the closure of the 200 Block for Trunk or Treat from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on October 31st. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Records Disposal Request and noted it follows the retention schedule. Greer motioned to approve the request. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reviewed estimates and the scope of work to repair/replace the roof at the City shop. The first quote in the amount of \$29,645.78, submitted by Kirkness Roofing & Exteriors, would remove the membrane and add channels. The second quote in the amount of \$8,250 was submitted by A-Team and their solution is to coat the entire roof with a rubberized coating to make it waterproof, but there would still be standing water. There was discussion of the slope and condition of the roof. Espinoza asked Hurff what his recommendation was and Hurff voiced the quote in the amount of \$29,645.78. Espinoza motioned to accept the \$29,645.78 quote. Greer asked if it has been turned into insurance and noted it wouldn't hurt to check with them. Espinoza rescinded his motion. There was further discussion. Krebs noted it needs to be redone and done right. Espinoza asked how long the quote is good for. Hurff reported Kirkness is currently in the area and if the City has them do it, it would be quick. Espinoza motioned to accept the bid for \$29,645.78 pending Hurff contacts insurance to see if they will cover it or part of it. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD) Annual Report. He noted the report was reviewed at the last meeting. Greer motioned to approve the annual report as written. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the new gator was received on Monday; a vehicle was purchased for the admin department; and he is working on updating a vehicle for the mechanic and also for the wastewater treatment plant.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George, Jr. reviewed calls for service. He reported he and School Resource Officer Laurie Welch attended Multiple Disciplinary Training (MDT) training with other county constituents that include Child Protective Services, County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, and Victim Witness Specialists. He voiced this is a team that will meet regarding child abuse and neglect within the county; providing an overview of the services provided to children and their families. The MDT Team is being organized in Big Horn County.

Police Chief George reported Police Service Aide (PSA) Grant is now a nationally certified animal control officer; he provided information about the cats/kittens that he and PSA Grant have trapped; and reported the last couple of weeks PSA Grant has put

stickers on vehicles and rv's; adding most people have complied with him providing education on the city ordinances.

Finance:

Lehr reported the recommendations that were made for the Wayfinding Plan are being worked on and the final plan will be brought back to Council when it is finished. He turned in the request for reimbursement from the County and from the Department of Commerce. The project was a little over \$40,000 and the total grant money received was \$40,000 between the two entities.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Toyne reported the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Economic Development Strategy closes Thursday, October 3rd at 3:00 p.m.; the RFQ for the Infill and Redevelopment for Housing will be advertised October 3rd with a closing date of Friday, October 25th at 3:00 p.m.; she attended the Beartooth RC&D Board Meeting; Myrna Latusky and Garuav Thakur, with RC&D, will be coming to Hardin tomorrow to meet with her to go over the many projects they are working on together; she attend the Montana Economic Development Association Conference in Havre; she and Lehr attended a meeting, by Zoom, with the Department of tourism that provided information about reapplying for the Pilot Tourism Grant; she attended a meeting with Ayers Associates and Beartooth RC&D regarding the County Housing Needs Assessment; she attended the National and Montana Mainstreet Webinar; the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) Board Meeting; and she continues to work with Business Attraction for the Industrial Park.

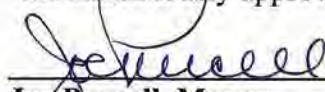
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Krebs announced the new City Phone Number is (406) 665-9260; Alley Clean-Up is in process; the Request for Qualifications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) are due by Thursday, October 3, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.; City Hall is closed Monday, October 14, 2024 for Columbus Day; the Request for Qualifications for the Infill and Renovation Redevelopment for Housing are due by Monday, October 25, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.; and the Council Meeting of Tuesday, November 5, 2024 has been rescheduled to Monday, November 4, 2024 due to the Election Day Holiday.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full time position: Police Officer. Part-Time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for October 15, 2024 was called to order at 6:34 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Rock Massine, and Antonio Espinoza. Jeremy Krebs and Chris Sharpe were excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for October 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Landfill Committee minutes as written for October 1, 2024. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for October 15, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
September, 2024	31543-31562, 31564, 31566-31572, 31574-31575	\$ 531,629.91
October, 2024	31563, 31573	\$ <u>13,471.43</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 545,101.34
September 2024		\$ <u>262,425.78</u>
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 807,527.12

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Scholl, with Ayers Associates, reported they are the consulting firm retained by Big Horn County to work on the Housing Needs Assessment. He voiced he wanted to provide information about what they are doing, what they have done, what they are working on and how it may affect the City. They are working with communities and leaders to help define how the housing challenge is viewed and to help build solutions and recommendations with what the problem is with housing. They will be doing a community housing survey that will go live shortly and will be sent out as a postcard mailer to all households in the county. Scholl added the information will be put out to different social media sites and postcards of the survey will be provided to council for them to handout to constituents. He noted the plan is to have the survey wrapped up by the first quarter of 2025 and have the final plan ready with recommendations. He voiced another part of the scope they are working on is to look at the regulatory framework for housing by looking at city codes and how they are applied. He noted a team of code experts will provide the code audit with recommendations; adding the City is not under any obligation to adopt them. Scholl voiced he is available for any questions.

Chief Paul George, JR. reported there is a grant available through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program that offers money to communities for public safety. He voiced the greatest need within the police department is communications through dispatch. He reported Big Horn County went to a digital trunking system and the city is on a cellular based radio; adding the City Police Department does not have interoperability between the county, state, or anyone else. He voiced his goal is to apply for the grant to purchase 13 mobile and 20 portable radios; adding this includes radios for the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department. He voiced he wanted

to get approval from Council to apply for the grant that is due tomorrow. Chief Paul George noted the radios are multi-band and will allow the department to communicate with anybody anywhere.

Laurie Tschetter voiced she is angry and disappointed about a situation regarding a puppy and about reports of missing cats. She expressed her concern about criminal activity; adding she is very concerned about what is going on in this community.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell provided an update from Joe Connelly, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer. He noted Connelly is a part-time employee; since January he has issued 118 building permits with a total of construction costs of 1.9 million dollars and there is still a lot of activity going on. He has only had one community decay complaint since January and received a second one today, he received one zoning complaint, and 45 yards have been mowed with over 100 signs placed for weed mowing. Connelly wanted to remind everyone anytime they have questions about code enforcement to come by the office; adding there are complaint forms available here at Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported he, Lehr, Chief Paul George, and Hurff are working on updating the Personnel Policy Handbook to incorporate the City Police Department.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported they are pretty much done with the water/sewer lines on Gable Boulevard, Watson Drive, and on the Southside by the hospital.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Mayor Purcell noted there is progress on the sidewalk at South Park for the South Park Project Upgrades; equipment has been ordered and will be going in next spring. He noted a pavilion and splash park will be added and reported park restrooms are closed.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received an update from the Montana Department of Transportation providing an update on the Hardin Rest Area Restoration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Lehr reported the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Economic Development Strategy is a plan for economic development and is similar to the housing needs assessment. The RFQ was put out for bid and the City only received one response. He, Toyne, and Mayor Purcell interviewed the company ECONorthwest. He added they have done plans with bigger communities, not smaller rural towns like Hardin. Lehr noted his recommendation is to go back out to bid to get more companies to bid on the RFQ. Toyne voiced she agrees. Massine motioned to go out for bids again. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported there was discussion at the last meeting about Landfill prices and looking at making changes and upgrades to them. Greer noted some changes requested are alphabetizing items to make it easier to read. He reported the biggest items received at the landfill are plastic wrappers from round hay bales that are over twenty feet in length. He noted Chris Schneider, Landfill Lead, wants to change the pricing to reflect the direct need of that. There would be no price increase if it was cut into twenty-foot sections, but the tubes that are not cut would have a straight fee of \$174.05. It was

noted it is comparable to animals and friable asbestos; they have to be handled as they are brought in. Greer requested railroad ties and power poles to be changed additionally to the fee \$174.05 per ton. He noted there is also a request to raise the fee for commercial unsecured loads to \$50.00. Mayor Purcell reported the requests are to raise the commercial unsecured loads fee to \$50, adding \$45.05 per ton for plastic irrigation pipe cut into twenty-foot sections, implement the fee for the bale form that are not cut into twenty-foot sections, power poles and railroad ties to \$174.05 a ton. Hurff pointed out the cost for freon recovery fee, if it is damaged and they can see there is no freon, they don't charge the fee. Lehr reported last year's rates were used with the top rate of \$174.05; the current top rate is \$179.30 per ton for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mayor Purcell broke down the requested fees as follows: increasing the fee for commercial unsecured loads to \$50.00, add plastic irrigation pipes into the current fee of \$179.30 for uncut plastic, fee of \$46.40 for cut plastic, and adding railroad ties and power poles with the fee of \$179.30. Hopes motioned to approve adding them. Greer seconded. Knudsen voiced if Council approves, he prefers to do this per resolution; he will have a resolution with an amended fee schedule at the next meeting. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported Thomas Lind and Myron Hulsey submitted requests for sidewalk and curb and gutter replacement. Hurff reported this is part of the project on 1st Street, the water line replacement and they are blacktopping and repairing some curbs and sidewalks. The homeowners wanted to take advantage of the city paying half of the curb replacement costs. The owner costs will be assessed on their taxes. It was noted the requests will be voted on by resolution.

Mayor Purcell reported Askin Construction submitted Change Order #2 in the amount of \$6,417.61 Greer motioned to authorize the change order. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported Askin Construction submitted Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$466,987.91. Greer asked if this was the total bill. Lehr reported this is for work done to the end of September. Lehr noted this is for the 1st Street Project; tearing out the old street, replacing the water line, replacing the street and curb and gutter, and they also put in a water line on Gable Boulevard. Massine motioned to approve the Pay Application in the amount of \$466,987.91. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the sand shed by the firehall has been completed, Kokomo Road is finished (approach and chip seal), the City removed a portion of the blacktop on Terry Avenue and the construction crew (Askin Construction) will do the blacktop for the City, and two of the park restrooms were closed due to vandalism; all the park restrooms are now closed. Hurff reported the parks have been sprayed for clover and the city is working on a culvert replacement down by the river.

Karla Roods reported there is a sidewalk in her neighborhood that is dangerous; the sidewalk is lifted four to six inches and there is a tree growing in the middle of the sidewalk. Mayor Purcell recommended she talk with Hurff.

Finance:

Lehr reported the auditors have begun working on the audit for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. The City and Stahly Engineering have turned in their quarterly report for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the request for reimbursement from July to September for the 1st Street Project in the amount of \$665,887.97; he added this will be paid through a grant that covers the two pay applications from Askin Construction and the three invoices from Stahly Engineering for those three months. He and the Chief are working on the Justice Assistance Grant application. He reported Lodge Grass also submitted their quarterly report for ARPA funds.

Lehr announced the Hardin Volunteer Fire Department will be burning down the property the City has at 836 1st Street South at the end of October. The property burned a few years ago and has been abated for asbestos. He asked everyone to stay safe and clear of the area.

Lehr reported he turned in the shop roof to Montanan Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) and he was told they will be sending an adjuster; the City received \$6,667 from Big Horn County for the City Wayfinding Plan; and he reviewed the investment account, reporting it has been doing well.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He reported a Neighborhood Watch Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers. He voiced the department started the nuisance cat program; procedures were created and have been followed from day one. He provided a report on the current progress of the program, addressed the misconceptions of the cats that have been trapped, and reviewed the procedures. Help Every Pet (HEP Club) has helped them with the kittens. Chief Paul George reported any adult cats that are trapped will be posted on the new Facebook page Hardin Police Animal Control. Corrina Kuntz referenced City Codes regarding kennel licenses. Knudsen referenced City Codes 6-2-3 and 6-2-4 (c) that gives the City permission to inspect for those that have kennel licenses and if they don't follow the entirety of Chapter 6-2 it gives the City some regulation for those that have that license.

Legal:

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2390: Authorizing Submission of Montana Department of Commerce Coal Board Application in Support of the Hardin Police Department. Greer motioned to approve the application. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2391: Ordering the Installment, Construction, Reconstruction or Replacement of Curb and Gutter at 224 North Terry Avenue. Greer motioned to approve the application. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2392: Ordering the Installment, Construction, Reconstruction or Replacement of Curb and Gutter at 705 1st Street West. Greer motioned to approve the application. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following employee anniversaries: Moses Gonzales, 46 years, Markus Takes The Horse, 9 years, and Angela Zimmer, 9 years.

The Hardin Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at First Alliance Church.

The Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting for the Invitation to Bid Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sealed Bids are due Wednesday, November 20, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.

The Request for Qualifications for Infill and Renovation Redevelopment for Housing are due by October 25, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.

Letters of Interest to be a Member of the Impact Fee Advisory Committee are due by October 29, 2024.

The Council Meeting of November 5, 2024 has been rescheduled to Monday, November 4, 2024 due to the Election Day Holiday and City offices are closed Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for Election Day.


The 2024 Vac-Truck Bids are due by 10:00 a.m. November 12, 2024 with the Bid Opening scheduled for 10:15 a.m. at Council Chambers.

Request for Proposals for the South West Park Project Splash Pad are due by 3:00 p.m. November 12, 2024.

Mayor Purcell voiced if anybody is interested in being a member of the Montana Local Government Review Study Commission, contact him at 406-665-9260 Ext. 101; adding the City is looking for two members to appoint to the commission.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full-time position: Police Officer. Part-time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.



Joe Purcell, Mayor



ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for November 4, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by virtual meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for October 15, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe abstained.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for November 4, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
September, 2024	31577, 31659	\$ 9,150.12
October, 2024	31576, 31578-31602, 31623-31629 31634-31657, 31660	\$ 169,194.53
November, 2024	31603-31622, 31630-31632	\$ 10,789.24
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 189,133.89

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported the Big Horn County Housing Survey is open through December; Montana Main Street awarded a \$45,000 grant to the City in support of the Hotel Becker for renovation and reuse; the School Resource Officer contract has been updated and is in place; and there has not been any new information about the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Police Department.

Mayor Purcell reported he and Tina Toyne attended the Montana Main Street Conference in Bozeman and he will be attending the National League of Cities City Conference in Tampa Bay, Florida next week, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has open positions for a full-time Police Officer and a part-time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the pre-bid construction meeting for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements was recently held; a lot of people showed up.

Law Enforcement:

Hopes reported a Community Watch Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the Request for Proposals for the South Park Splash Pad Project are due by 3:00 p.m. on November 12th. He noted he has looked into pricing for the compost material that will be used around the playground equipment in South Park; adding it would be good to lock in the price at \$35 per cubic yard by paying for it now. The funds do need to be allocated before the end of the year. Krebs reported he has been talking with Hurff about putting in some perimeter and adding the fill material for the new equipment at Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Landa Uffelman requested closure of the 200 Block from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. on Saturday, November 30, 2024 for the Hardin Christmas Stroll. Krebs motioned to approve the requests. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported he and Chris Schneider, Landfill Lead, met with Barry Damschen about an alternate area for the canister site at the landfill; adding the alternate location would require less dirt work. Damschen submitted an amended design and bid for the engineering services in the amount of \$24,000. Hurff provided a review of how the three-bay canister site will look. Greer noted he and Schneider have looked into other options; providing information about designs of other canister sites. Schneider is waiting to receive information from another county of their canister site design. Knudsen voiced caution about the city building the site on their own. Sharpe motioned to table the bid. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. A committee meeting will be scheduled for November 19, 2024.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Finance:

Lehr reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report for the First Interstate Bank Investment Account.

Lehr reported the final invoice for the Wayfinding Plan Project is included in the claims in the amount \$7,600; the City received the final invoice from S Bar S for the sand shed; and Stahly has received the last pay application from Askin Construction for the 1st Street, 6th Street, Gable Boulevard and manhole projects.

Lehr reported the City is working on the second application for Tourism Pilot Grant and he will be applying for the impact portion of the Montana Main Street Wayfinding Plan to have a portion of the signs paid through the grant. There was not a bid submitted for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Infill & Redevelopment Grant for Housing; the City may have to solicit bids or go back out for another RFQ. The bids for the Request for Qualifications for the Economic Development Strategy are due Thursday, November 7th. Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) did have Sprague Roofing inspect the roof at the city shop. They determined the roof was improperly installed originally so they are not going to cover it; it will be covered under repair and maintenance.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He reported he attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Boston, MA; there he spoke with radio companies about the departments radio issues and being separated from the County. Three of the companies have a way to keep the dispatch remote in Alabama, but go back to the regular radios so the department can communicate with the Sheriff's Office and anyone within the state; adding he is waiting on quotes. He provided a review of a demo

he received at the conference from CentralSquare, voicing a lot of agencies in Montana use them for police reporting, citations, 911 CAD, jail portion etc. He noted Big Horn County is looking into swapping to them; he wants to swap to them also with the ability to piggy-back off another agency that has them. The current reporting system, 10-8 Systems requires all of the information to be manually entered; CentralSquare automatically reports to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). He provided an overview of a new phone number tracking system for any calls that come into the 911 or City dispatch systems, adding the service is free; he is waiting for more information about the service.

Police Chief Paul George reported Officer Timothy Smells is currently in Field Training Officer (FTO) School this week. He announced Officers Tyler Nedens and Ishmael Perin will graduate from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy this Friday.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Toyne reported she is continuing to work on Business Attraction prospects, Requests for Qualifications, and applications for grants; she noted the new Economic Development Director, Gaurav Thakur, and Project Manager Myrna Lastusky, both with Beartooth RC&D, came to Hardin to meet with her and together they traveled to Lodge Grass to meet with Mayor Dabney; she spent two days with Mike Scholl, of Ayers Associates, and they met with many different leaders throughout the County; the postcards for the Big Horn County Needs Assessment will be mailed to homes beginning November 8th; and she met with Kathleen Williams from USDA and is looking forward to receiving more information about potential funding opportunities. Toyne reported she and Mayor Purcell attended the Main Street Conference where they received tons of information and were given new ideas to pursue; the City will be working with Mary Slattery on the Historical Grant for the Hotel Becker; and the Economic Development Strategy is due Thursday, November 7, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.

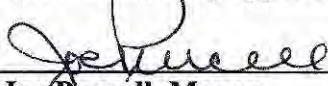
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced City offices will be closed Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for Election Day; Request for Qualifications for Economic Development Strategy are due by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 7, 2024; City offices will be closed Monday, November 11, 2024 in Honor of Veterans Day; Vac-Truck Bids are due by 10:00 a.m. Thursday November 12, 2024 with the Bid Opening scheduled for 10:15 a.m. at Council Chambers; Request for Proposals for the South West Park Project Splash Pad are due by 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 12, 2024; Neighborhood Watch is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers; a Public Hearing for Amending Landfill User Fees for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:20 p.m.; and Sealed Bids for the Invitation to Bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant are due Thursday, December 12, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full-time positions: Police Officer and Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) / Administrative Assistant . Part-time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Hopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for Amending the Landfill Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 opened at 6:23 p.m.

Present at the hearing were:
Council Members: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the public

Mayor Purcell opened the Public Hearing for discussion or Public Comment.

Mayor Purcell reported the main changes in the landfill fees are to include the large plastic bale wrap that comes into the landfill. Chris Schneider, Landfill Lead, reported basically it is a special waste fee; charge the same as friable asbestos for railroad ties, power poles, and poly plastic; they take longer to break down. He explained the process for taking those items into the landfill. It was noted the goal of the fee is to offset the extra work it takes to get the items buried, broke down, etc. The proposed amended rate is \$179.30 per ton.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:27p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for November 19, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically and by virtual meeting: Members of the Public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Hopes made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for November 4, 2024. Motion seconded by Sharpe. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for November 19, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
August, 2024	31696	\$ 221.00
September, 2024	31695, 31697	\$ 3,170.18
October, 2024	31661-31692, 31694	\$ 80,417.31
November, 2024	31693	\$ 1,000.00
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 84,808.49
October 2024		\$ 248,366.41
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 333,174.90

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Patrick Sargent, resident, expressed his frustration regarding his communication with the City Police Department regarding a complaint he filed; he reported City Police Department has forwarded the complaint to the County Attorney's Office.

Jose Funke, resident, voiced his concerns about the fiber internet company installing internet in town.

Karla Roods, resident, asked about community decay and provided some examples. She noted she has turned in complaints. Mayor Purcell voiced that he is familiar with the complaints she submitted and Code Enforcement has sent some letters; the process is moving forward.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported the Big Horn County Housing Survey is open, he attended the National League of Cities and Towns (NLC) Conference in Tampa Bay, FL last week where he received information about federal grants for streets and the Pilot Grant Committee met on Monday to work on the application for the Tourism Grant that is due the end of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has open positions for a full-time Police Officer, Terminal Agency Coordination/Administrative Assistant (TAC) and a part-time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported there was a bid opening for a Vac-Truck.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Espinoza reported the County is striping Railway Street and Mitchell Avenue. He added Mitchell Avenue to Town Pump is not a State highway so the County is also going to put in two crosswalks to the tennis courts and one by swimming pool. He reported the School will buy the solar pedestrian blinking lights for the crosswalks.

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported the sidewalk installation in South Park for the South Park Project is complete; the handicap ramps will be installed when the weather is better. He noted it is unfortunate that some kids drew stick figures into the new concrete of the sidewalk. There are splashpad proposals Council will look at further down on the agenda.

Finance/Landfill:

Greer reported the committee discussed the landfill canister site; it will come up on the agenda.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Sharpe reported the committee had a meeting concerning liquor licenses. The consensus is to have Knudsen draft an amendment to the City Codes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported Council had tabled the Damschen Landfill Canister Site discussion from last meeting to a committee meeting. Greer reported the landfill committee concluded to proceed with the Damschen Engineering Landfill Canister Site proposal (Amendment NO. 30) in the cost of \$24,000. Hopes motioned to approve the proposal. Massine seconded. Krebs asked if it could be more than \$24,000. Mayor Purcell reported not without permission from Council. On a voice vote the motion was approved. (5/1) Krebs voting Nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the City received Pay Application #3 from Askin Construction in the amount of \$361,221.60. Massine motioned to accept the Pay Application #3 in the amount of \$361,221.60. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reported there were two bids received for a Vac-Truck. There was discussion of the body styles, build time, and the bid amounts. Massine motioned to accept the bid from Joe Johnson Equipment in the amount of \$472,637. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Krebs reported the City received two bids for Splash pads to be installed in South Park; as part of the South Park Project. There was discussion of the differences in equipment, square footage, bid amounts, etc. Massine made the recommendation to go forward with SplashPads USA in the amount of \$136,000. There was additional discussion about a recirculation system versus fresh water. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Tina Toyne, Economic Development Director, reported the City received three Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Economic Development Strategy; adding they were all interviewed. Mayor Purcell pointed out Interstate Engineering did the City Growth Management Plan and Ayres is doing the Housing Study with Big Horn County. Greer motioned to approve the proposal from Ayres Associates Inc. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (5/1) Sharpe voting Nay.

Lehr reviewed the Cash Pledge Report. Greer motioned to approve the report. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reviewed the Letter of Credit from Little Horn State Bank. Hopes motioned to accept the Letter of Credit. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the City put a request out looking for two more members to appoint to the Local Government Review Study Commission. He reported Jason Stephenson was elected by Acclamation. Mayor Purcell recommended the appointments of Carolyn Dawes and Randy Mercier. Hopes motioned to approve the appointments. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the Resolutions or Ordinances Committee recommendation is to go forward with changing the liquor license ordinance to eliminate the liquor license fees. Knudsen will have a proposal for the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the roof is done on the City shop; the City has not received a response yet from the insurance company. He noted the crew has been working hard and the street project has wrapped up. Hurff reported the City is working with the County; they are willing to run their milling machine, road recycler, down Lessard Avenue. The striping company that is doing the work for the county will be striping the City side of Mitchell Avenue for around \$600.00 while they are here. He reported the bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project are due December 12th. Krebs voiced the County did a great job on Railroad.

Finance:

Lehr reviewed the Quarterly Financial Report for the First Quarter. Greer motioned to accept the Quarterly Report. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He announced Officer Tyler Nedens and Ishmael Perin graduated the Montana Law Enforcement Academy on December 8th. Officer Perin won the Distinguished Defensive Tactics Award, securing paid tuition to the States Defensive Tactics Instructor Course. Officer Timothy Smells completed Field Training Officer (FTO) School on December 8th.

Police Chief Paul George reported the first Neighborhood Watch meeting went well. He provided an overview of the discussion.

Legal:

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2393 – Amending Landfill Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Massine motioned to accept Resolution NO. 2393. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

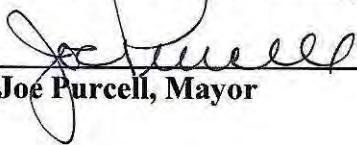
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the following Employee Anniversaries: Joe Connelly, 12 years; Jim Kuntz, 11 years; and Julie Stieber, 4 years. City offices will be closed Thursday, November 28, 2024 for Thanksgiving and will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Friday, November 29, 2024; Letters of Interest to serve on the City-County Planning Board are due December 4, 2024; and Sealed Bids for the Invitation to Bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant are due Thursday, December 12, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full-time positions: Police Officer and Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) / Administrative Assistant I-IV. Part-time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice. Positions are open until filled.

Massine noted the state lights are down from 3rd Street to 13th Street on this side and there is a whole bunch of rebar still on the walking track at the high school.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

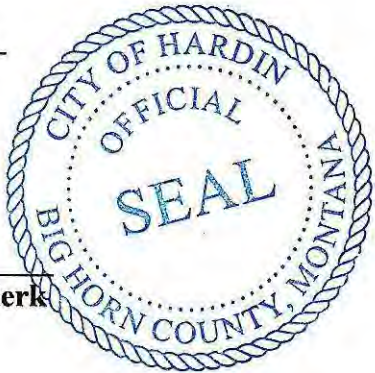


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for December 3, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by Virtual Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Greer made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for November 19, 2024. Motion seconded by Hopes. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Sharpe motioned to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written for November 19, 2024. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Landfill committee meeting minutes as written for November 19, 2024. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Sharpe motioned to approve the Resolutions or Ordinances committee meeting as written for November 19, 2024. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for December 3, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
October, 2024	31723, 31741, 31769-31770	\$ 405,410.30
November, 2024	31699-31700, 31724-31740, 31742-31768	137,355.60
December, 2024	31698, 31701-31722	<u>11,927.47</u>
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 554,693.37

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Francisca Funke, resident, read a letter to Mayor Purcell and City Council stating she attends Hardin High School and requested support for her upcoming trip to Boston, Massachusetts scheduled for June 25, 2025 – June 27, 2025. She is nominated for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence. She provided her Letter and Certificate of Nomination and voiced this trip will provide an incredible opportunity for her dream to become a doctor. Mayor Purcell congratulated Miss. Funke on her nomination; a great honor.

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell extended a “Thank You” to the City Crew for their participation in the Christmas Stroll by helping with the Christmas Tree and blocking the streets. A Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, December 19th from 1:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at First Alliance Church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has open positions for a full-time Police Officer, Terminal Agency Coordination/Administrative Assistant (TAC) and the Police Service Aide position is opening up. Part-time positions are open for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. All positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the bid opening for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade is scheduled for December 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Krebs reported Hurff is working with Rocky Mountain Compost about the playground material for the South Park Project and also for the playground equipment at Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Joel Bertolino, Executive Director of Beartooth RC&D, Nan Knight, Finance Director, Gaurav Thakur, Economic Development Director, and Myrna Lastusky, Project Manager, provided reports for 2024 Projects and grant information for the City of Hardin.

Krebs motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hardin and Beartooth RC&D. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported Knudsen has volunteered to serve as the Ex-Officio to the Montana Local Government Review Study Commission. Knudsen will be appointed per approval of Resolution NO. 2395.

Mayor Purcell reported iWorQ provides a software that will help support code enforcement. The program will keep documents of past and current information of all permits, to include building permits, citations etc. This software will help with transitioning someone new into the position. The \$6,000 annual fee includes the software and subscription services. Sharpe motioned to approve the agreement. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported HB 355 funds are due to be allocated by the end of the year. They have been allocated for the South Park Project. The Water Tank Liner is one of the items under the bill. Stahly will be opening Bids on December 24, 2024. There may be a special meeting for the bid approval before the end of 2024.

Finance:

Lehr reported the City received the sixth reimbursement request from the minimum allocation grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money in the amount of \$665,888.25; the Land Water Conservation Quarterly Reports for the period of July through September of 2024 have been turned in; he and Toyne have been working on the Preliminary Architectural Report (Request for Proposals) for the Becker Hotel; and he reviewed the return on investments from January through October of this year.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. He reported the new body cameras came in; the dash cameras will be installed by Axon next week; and the radar units were installed in most of the vehicles last week, the remaining ones will be installed in the new year. Police Chief George extended a "Thank You" to the Big Horn County Attorney's Office; they assisted with half the cost for the carpet in the City Police Department interview room.

Legal:

Economic Development:

Toyne reported she and Lehr attended the Housing Crisis meeting in Bozeman a couple of weeks ago; she is working with Ayres Associates on the Housing Needs Assessment and now the Economic Development Strategy; work continues on the application for the Pilot Tourism Grant with the deadline of December 31st; there is a startup meeting scheduled with Ayres Associates for the Economic Development Strategy Thursday Morning; and she and Lehr are working on multiple Request for Proposals to include one for the Preliminary Architecture Report for the Hotel Becker.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2394 – Appointing Commissioners to the Local Government Review Study Commission. Greer motioned to approve the resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2395 – Appointing the Ex-Officio Member of the Local Government Review Study Commission. Krebs motioned to approve the resolution. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

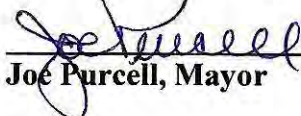
Ordinance NO. 2024-10 – Amending City Code Regarding Business Licenses for Businesses Selling Beer, Wine, and Liquor. Sharpe motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-10. Greer seconded. Krebs asked if sporting events are removed, referencing the top of page three of the proposed ordinance. Special Event permits will still be required. Knudsen noted the City has the authority to regulate and enforce where public consumption of alcohol will be allowed. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced City-County Planning Board are due December 4, 2024; the City Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th, officially no business will be conducted, but there is a possibility for a quorum to be present; Sealed Bids for the Invitation to Bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant are due Thursday, December 12, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.; and Alley Clean-Up and Christmas Tree pick-up is scheduled for January 2, 2025 to January 8, 2025.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full-time positions: Police Officer and Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) / Administrative Assistant I-IV. Part-time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for December 17, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Steven Hopes was excused.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., City Attorney Jordan Knudsen, and Police Chief Paul George, Jr.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
There was not anyone present by Virtual Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Sharpe made the motion to approve the Council minutes as written for December 3, 2024. Motion seconded by Greer. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for December 17, 2024.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
November, 2024	31771, 31774-31784, 31787-31794, 31796, 31802, 31805-31807, 31809-31811	\$ 71,008.38
December, 2024	31773, 31785-31786, 31795, 31797- 31801, 31803-31804, 31812-31813	<u>\$ 615,550.59</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 686,558.97
November 2024		<u>\$ 234,044.76</u>
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 929,603.73

Massine seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MAYOR:

Mayor Purcell reported negotiations have started again with the union for the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement. He extended “Happy Holidays to Everyone” and a “Thank You” to City employees for all the work they did for the employee Christmas Party.

Ayres, with the Economic Development Grant, started their studies this week. They spoke with businesses around town yesterday and will meet with more in the future looking for ideas, suggestions, and thoughts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Policy/City Policy:

Mayor Purcell reported the City has open positions for a full-time Police Officer, Terminal Agency Coordination/Administrative Assistant (TAC) and the Police Service Aide. Part-time positions are open for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. All positions are open until filled.

Sewer & Water:

Massine reported the bid opening for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade was moved to January 9, 2025.

Law Enforcement:

Streets & Alleys:

Parks & Playgrounds:

Hurff reported the playground material will be delivered in May. Krebs reported all other contracts for the South Park Project have been awarded and signed.

Finance/Landfill:

Resolutions & Ordinances:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The City received the City-County Planning Board minutes from the meeting of September 9, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Purcell reported the total budget for the Tank Liner Task Order project is \$25,000 and will be funded through House Bill 355 funds. Greer motioned to approve the order. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell reported the City received a recommendation from the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) to approve the Glick Conditional Use Application; adding the CCPB unanimously voted to recommend approval. The conditional use would allow a truck relay yard for FedEx to be developed on the property. There was discussion of the roads that would be used to access the Glick property. Mayor Purcell reported there are letters of support from residents next to the property in the packet. Greer asked how the traffic would be controlled. Knudsen voiced it is state law that when leaving a private driveway and entering a public roadway, you have to yield to the public roadway; whether there is a stop sign there or not. Greer made the motion to approve. Espinoza seconded. Krebs asked if there was any opposition to it. It was noted there was on the original plan, not this one. Tschetter voiced she was at that meeting and she opposed. Tschetter voiced we have twelve acres next to it and when they develop their property, they don't want to be looking at chain link fence, barbwire, lights, etc.; it is a nice residential area. Greer pointed out it is zoned C-1. There was further discussion of the when there was a zone change there. Nelson Glick noted it has been zoned commercial for around fifteen years; Fed-Ex will be driving down the road that will be cemented, 40 foot-wide; they moved this over by Becker's property, it will keep the trucks 200 feet from Tschetter's property. On a voice vote the motion passed (3/2) with Greer, Sharpe, and Espinoza voting Yea and Krebs and Massine Voting Nay .

Mayor Purcell reported he will have to post-pone the Mayor appointment to the City-County Planning Board. He did not receive a letter of interest for appointment. He will reach out to recruit.

Greer motioned to approve the appointment of Michael Ebert to serve on the City-County Planning Board as the City Council appointment. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharpe motioned to approve the Landfill agreement with Northern Cheyenne. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Lehr reported both of the Little Horn State Band CD's, 35 and 41 are currently at 1.75%; the 6-month rate today is 4.35%. He is requesting to combine them and do the 6-month at the higher rate. Massine motioned to approve. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the cathodic protection in the water tank is working good after the mixers were installed; he is looking into bids to replace a door at the landfill; he is waiting on an insurance adjuster to look at the water truck; and new tires for scraper can at the landfill and quotes for the UV Bulb maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will go before Council.

Finance:

Lehr reported he and Toyne are working on the Pilot Tourism Grant application and Toyne is working on the Infill and Redevelopment for Housing Study Request for Proposals; they did not receive any bids the first time.

Police:

Police Chief Paul George reviewed calls for service. The installations all of Axon products; dash cameras, body cameras, interview room camera have been completed and the carpet in the interview room has been installed. He is working on quotes, grants, and funding for a new radio system.

Legal:

Knudsen noted the number of cases in City Court are at about a five-year high; not because there is more crime, but because of the work of the Chief and Police Department; more convictions of cases.

Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Ordinance NO. 2024-10: Second Reading -Amending City Code Regarding Business Licenses for Businesses Selling Beer, Wine, and Liquor. Greer motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance NO. 2024-10. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Purcell announced the ordinance will go into effect thirty days from today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Purcell announced the Local Government Review Study Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m; Bryan Wilson celebrates three years with the City; Bids for the Water Tank Lining will be received until 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 24, 2024 and opened on Friday, December 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.; Hardin Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the First Alliance Church from 1:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.; a Special Council Meeting for the Tank Lining Bid Award is scheduled for Monday, December 30, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. at Council Chambers; City offices will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024 for Christmas Day, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025 for New Year's Day; Alley Clean-Up and Christmas Tree Pick-up are scheduled for January 2, 2025 to January 8, 2025; Sealed Bids for the Invitation to Bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been rescheduled to January 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.; Request for Qualifications for the Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Plan for Hotel Becker are due by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2025; and Business and Pet Licenses are due by February 1, 2025.

The City of Hardin has the following Job Openings: Full-time positions: Police Officer, Police Service Aide (PSA), and Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) / Administrative Assistant I-IV. Part-time position: Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Apprentice and Janitor/Facilities Maintenance. Positions are open until filled.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Massine seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk



CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: The Special Council Meeting for December 30, 2024 was called to order at 5:15 p.m. with Mayor Joe Purcell presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Clayton Greer, Chris Sharpe, Rock Massine, and Jeremy Krebs. Alderman Antonio Espinoza was present virtually and Alderman Steven Hopes was not present.

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public
Present virtually: Ishmael Perin Hardin Police Department and Matt Smith Stahly Engineering.


PUBLIC COMMENT:

New Business:

Mayor Purcell reported that an extension had been filed for the House Bill 355 funding, but there was no confirmation yet on whether the Department of Commerce granted that extension. Greer inquired whether the ladder in the bid could be a solid stainless-steel ladder to have a longer useful life. Krebs asked if the ladder was needed at all in the tank. Hurff stated that the divers go in to clean and work on the tank from a tripod at the top of the tank. The City employees drain the entire tank when they need to inspect the tank. Smith stated that he doesn't believe there isn't a need with the confined space requirements the divers would be required to follow. Greer asked if the lining would be damaged when they installed the ladder. Smith noted that they would install after lining the tank and that a ladder could be installed at a later date if needed. Massine motioned to approve the bid from Carr Coatings and to remove the ladder from the bid. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Purcell noted that the heaters in the fire hall are going out and need to be replaced. Massine motioned to approve the quote from Wagners Heating & Air Conditioning in the amount of \$12,200. Greer seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Krebs voiced that he would like to see multiple quotes when considering similar bids in the future.

Greer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. Sharpe seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.


Joe Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

